

Prince thrills disco fans with impromptu breakdance



The Prince of Wales trying breakdancing yesterday with jobless young people on a Youth Meets Industry course organized in West Sussex by The Prince's Trust.

Portfolio £24,000 to be won

There is £24,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today. The weekend prize of £20,000 carries a bonus of £4,000, because yesterday's £2,000 daily prize was not won, and is consequently added to today's £2,000 prize. Portfolio list, page 22, weekly prize list, information service back page.

Collapse of well kills 14 children

Fourteen children were killed when concrete slabs covering a 300ft deep disused well collapsed as they played on them in Accra, the Ghana news agency said. Three bodies were brought to the surface yesterday. Eleven others were recovered shortly after Thursday's accident in a central Accra primary school.

Teachers' union wins pay role

The National Union of Teachers was being "wholly unreasonable" in excluding the Professional Association of Teachers from working parties on the pay negotiating Burnham committee, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Murder charge

A boy aged 15 appeared before a Northampton juvenile court and was remanded in custody charged with the murder of Mrs Janet Maddocks, a social worker, on a train.

Killings dispute

A policeman has admitted that an account of the police killing of 19 blacks given by the Law and Order Minister to the South African Parliament was untrue on a number of counts.

Post talks

The Post Office and union representatives will meet this weekend to try to avert disruption from Monday by workers angry over the introduction of part-time workers.

Yarrow offer

A peace plan which could end the occupation of the Yarrow-on-Clyde shipyard was last night being studied by shop stewards.

Job creation

A government report requested by the Prime Minister, suggests ways of encouraging job creation in small firms.

Tax change

Non-taxpayers will be better off investing their savings abroad after next Saturday when banks start deducting basic rate tax from interest payments.

Retreat by Athens raises hope of EEC settlement

Greece showed a spirit of much-needed compromise last night when bargaining began at the European summit on the one outstanding argument remaining between EEC countries.

With negotiations to bring in Spain and Portugal over, the one serious block to enlargement of the Community and agreement on finding extra money to fund, among other things, a £600 million osion to Britain this year, has been a Greek demand for £1,500 million as special compensation for the effects of Spanish and Portuguese entry.

At the Dublin summit in December, Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, said he would veto enlargement and an increase in the Community's money until he was satisfied in his demand for the cash.

Since then he has refused to budge on the figure, especially as he has been under increasing domestic political pressure. But when negotiations on the question opened in Brussels yesterday, Mr Papandreu said he was prepared to accept a lower amount. He told the

Big game switch 'slur' on Scots

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent

The Government was strongly criticized yesterday over its "request" that this year's international football match between England and Scotland should not be staged at Wembley over the Bank holiday weekend on May 25.

The two national football associations have arranged for the game to take place instead at Hampden Park in Glasgow. Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, said in a letter to Mr Ted Croker, the Football Association's secretary, that "the Government is extremely concerned that the timing of this fixture increases the risk of disorder".

Once it was made clear that no other date was available, the venue was changed. Mr Denis Howell, the Shadow Minister for Sport, described the decision as totally inexplicable. The fixture has been free of hooliganism for six years. What the Government is doing is surrendering. It is running away and declaring no-go areas for football matches.

Mr Richard Holt, a Conservative MP, said that he was "appalled by what has been done. I think the Government has made a mistake and I shall ask the Sports Minister to



Opposite sides: Mr Macfarlane (left) and Mr Howell.

reconsider. What has caused this? Was it pressure from the police, from the football authorities or is it merely a ministerial whim?

Mr George Younger MP, the Secretary of State for Scotland, issued a statement saying: "I am incensed by suggestions that the decision to stage this year's England v Scotland football match at Hampden Park is the result of fears of disorder caused by Scottish supporters. Nothing could be further from the truth. The English Football Association was only asked to move the match from the Bank Holiday weekend. There was no government instruction to change the venue."

Mr Charles Bent, the chairman of the Scottish division of the national Federation of Supporters Clubs, said: "My initial reaction is one of anger and amazement. It is nothing but a slur on Scottish supporters, who, as the record proves, are among the best behaved in Europe."

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Tory student wing could face purge

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The leadership of the Conservative Party is, for the first time, contemplating drastic action to purge its student body of ultra-right wing elements, which have become an embarrassment to the Prime Minister, and an affront to mainstream Conservatives throughout the country.

The course of events will depend on how next week's annual conference of the Federation of Conservative Students is conducted, and whether intolerant and undemocratic forces prove to have the upper hand.

A growing number of ministers and senior Conservatives, both in Parliament and in the voluntary echelons of the party, believe that the Federation has become an incurably diseased limb of the National Union, the central voluntary organization, and will have to be removed.

The executive committee of the National Union has full power to disband the Federation and expel its national officers from the party.

The complaints against the faction now in control of the Federation are their views are not shared by the majority of Conservative members or supporters.

The are accused of a fanatical belief in personal freedom. Their adherents make intemperate speeches opposing State controls on the use of drugs; restraints on immigration; and equal restraints on racial discrimination.

On topical political questions they stretch Conservative attitudes to extremes of unreality. They oppose all arms reduction talks between East and West, and all attempts to reconcile, by

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MONDAY

Piccadilly facelift The £100m redevelopment of the "hub of the Empire"

Time for a commercial break? Ian Trethowan on the BBC's advertisement

Classic achievement Andrew Lloyd Webber and his Requiem

Nacods pressed to hold strike ballot

By Barrie Clement and Tim Jones

Leaders of the pit deputies union are facing mounting pressure to hold a strike ballot over the National Coal Board's tactics on colliery closure.

Representatives from Scotland, Kent and Durham are likely to join the south west area of the National Association of Colliery Overmen Deputies and Shopstewards in calling for a vote among their 16,000 members when the union's executive meets in emergency session on Monday. The Nacods men are angry over a letter sent to all three of the industry's unions which, they argue, gives the coal board "carte blanche" to close any colliery.

They are also concerned over a High Court refusal to stop the closure of Bedwas colliery, Newport, or any other mine, until a new review procedure, agreed with the union, is worked out.

Mr Peter McNesley, general secretary of Nacods, said that both the Frances Colliery in Fife, and Bedwas are being shut without consultation.

The new system worked out with the coal board averted a strike threat last October, for which the union won an 82.5 per cent mandate in a ballot. The board last night denied that there had been any decision to close the Scottish pit and indicated that the National

Vote throws Greece into crisis

From Mario Modiano Athens

Greece plunged headlong into a constitutional crisis yesterday when Parliament voted by the narrowest margin for Mr Christos Sartzetakis, a Supreme Court judge, to be President of the republic.

The conservative Opposition challenged the validity of his election and refused to acknowledge him as the new head of state.

Mr Sartzetakis, aged 56, nominated by the ruling Socialists in a surprise move to succeed President Karamanlis, polled 180 votes in the 300-seat Parliament during a riotous session yesterday. Exactly the three-fifths majority required in the third round.

This total however included, besides the votes of the Socialists, the Communists and some independents, the vote of Mr Yiannis Alevras, the Socialist Speaker of Parliament, who after Mr Karamanlis's resignation, became acting President.

The Opposition maintains that as such he could not vote. Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of the conservative opposition party New Democracy, urged Mr Sartzetakis not to accept the disputed election.

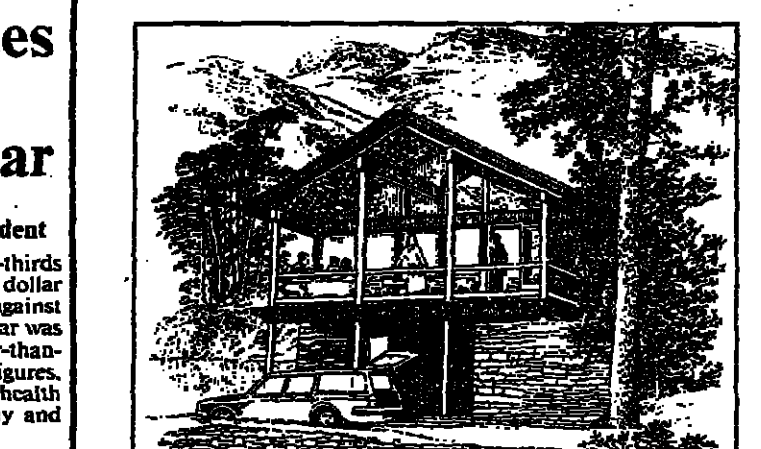
Sudan general strike planned to topple Nimeiry

From Paul Vallely Khartoum

A general strike is being planned to begin on Monday in Sudan in an attempt to overthrow the Government of President Nimeiry who is this week on a private visit to Washington to meet President Reagan.

A secret meeting of the heads of the organizations representing doctors, lawyers, engineers, academics and students decided yesterday to call on other professionals and workers' bodies to join them in a total stoppage and campaign of civil disobedience from next week. The move follows three days of rioting which began in the Sudanese capital on Tuesday.

Reports were reaching Khartoum yesterday of riots in the western provincial capitals of El Geneina and El Obeid and of disturbances and a strike by one of the country's strongest unions, the railway workers, in the northern town of Atbara, one of the key centres of the industry which is vital to Africa's largest country.



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Bishop again states doubts about Resurrection in an Easter message

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, has repeated his doubts about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in an Easter message to his diocese. Writing in his diocesan newsletter, he said that the doctrine of the Resurrection did not depend on Jesus's grave being empty.

"I personally do not know whether the grave was empty or not," he added. "The evidence of the texts, the nature of the tradition, and the general facts about the way people all over the world rapidly believe appropriate stories to support their religious beliefs, leave me wholly uncertain about the empty tomb as a literal historical fact."

The Bishop said that he could not cheat or conceal his position "because the whole matter is too important for cheating or concealment, or pretending to particular beliefs that one does not find sufficient reason for holding."

Last year his expression

doubts about the Resurrection of Jesus Christ caused an outcry in the Church of England, and his conversion as bishop was deplored by groups of conservative churchmen. The House of Bishops is to meet in the summer to review the controversy, and consider what criteria should govern doctrinal disputes in the church.

In his newsletter, the bishop said that the "empty tomb" could not prove, did not establish, "and may not even mean", the doctrine of the Resurrection. "The alternative rational and plausible explanation that the disciples stole the body was around pretty early on."

Meanwhile, one of the groups opposed to the bishop, Action for Biblical Witness to Our Nation (which calls itself Abwon), has published the results of a survey which claims to show that two-thirds of the Church of England's 44 diocesan bishops believe in the

Resurrection as an historical event. This was based on specific replies from half of them.

To defeat the policy of the House of Bishops against answering surveys of this type, Abwon arranged for its individual members to write privately to their local bishop.

On Tuesday, Abwon will deliver to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, a petition signed by 20,000 Anglican communicant members, asking that future bishops be appointed only if they believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. "The picture emerging of the state of belief in the House of Bishops is not a good one," the Rev. Tony Highton, founder of Abwon, said.

Only 22 of the 44 diocesan and 62 suffragan bishops approached satisfied Abwon's conditions on all points. "The picture emerging of the state of belief in the House of Bishops is not a good one," the Rev. Tony Highton, founder of Abwon, said.

Possible cancer link to pill, study finds

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The largest international study into the contraceptive pill and cervical cancer suggests there might be a link. But in a cautious introduction the report's author says the statistics of risk are of "borderline significance".

The difference in risk between women who had ever taken the pill and those who had not "was not impressive in magnitude". It might be explained by the fact that women on the pill are more sexually active; that affects the risk of cervical cancer. Similarly, differences in lifestyle between countries is believed to have an influence.

But when the figures were broken down according to the length of time individuals had taken the pill, the risk was higher for those who had taken it for longer than five years. Even allowing for the uncertainties in the small numbers in this category, the authors state "the increase in risk with duration is less easily explainable".

The study covered more than 6,000 women from Australia, Chile, China, Colombia, East Germany, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines and Thailand. The results were co-ordinated by doctors at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and the Cancer Research Institute in Seattle, in the United States.

Their preliminary conclusions are presented in the *British Medical Journal*.

The paper coincides with a brief report from Swedish doctors, in the *Lancet*, which says research has confirmed other studies showing the risk of breast cancer was three times higher for women between the ages of 20 and 24 if they took the pill.

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that its advisers would be studying the reports to determine what action might be needed.

However, the new evidence on the pill, added to that of Professor Martin Vessey and Professor Malcolm Pike, of Oxford, more than a year ago, is bound to put pressure on NHS cancer screening services, already under criticism because of failure to inform women of smear test results.

The Oxford study showed risks associated with particular types of high steroid level contraceptives that are not now prescribed in Britain. The WHO study did not distinguish between brands, but that is expected in follow-up studies.

Family Planning Association doctors said yesterday that the WHO findings were in line with other studies pointing to some factors in lifestyle of some women giving rise to greater risk.

Pop singer in £2m settlement

Gilbert O'Sullivan, the singer and songwriter, was £2 million richer yesterday after reaching an out-of-court settlement with his former managers, Management Agency and Music over unpaid royalties.

The 1970s star had originally won an award in the High Court which would have amounted to £7 million but the Court of Appeal ruled last year that this should be lower.

Mr Stanley Fenn, a director of MAM, said a settlement had been reached to avoid further hearings that could have stretched on for another two years.

The money for royalties and interest for the seven years in the early 1970s when records made by Mr O'Sullivan had earned about £14.5 million from which he had received £400,000.

MAM, which is in merger talks with the independent record group, Chrysalis, grew to prominence from the management of singers such as Engelbert Humperdinck and Tony Jones. It said the cost of the settlement would be reduced as a result of tax allowances.

Anger over job loss survey

Sheffield's Chamber of Trade has condemned a council plan to investigate at a cost of £20,000 traders' claims that the city's rates are so high they are costing jobs.

The chamber said it had carried out its own survey showing that rates had cost hundreds of jobs, but the council "has difficulty in believing our figures".

Siege remand

Edward Greenwood, aged 25, of Manchester, was remanded in custody until next Thursday by Manchester magistrates yesterday charged with unlawfully imprisoning his nephew, Charles Hodge, aged 14, and causing £1,000 of damage during a nine-hour siege at a house.

£59,000 award

Mr Thomas Andrew, aged 30, of south London, who lost both legs under the wheels of a train, was awarded £59,863 damages in the High Court yesterday. The damages were reduced by a quarter from £79,818 because Mr Andrew, a bank manager, was held partly responsible for the accident in 1978.



Lady Victoria Leatham, holding a casting bottle, and a seventeenth century miniature Hagon (top right) and perfume bottle, which will be among the exhibits.

'Hidden' gems to go on show

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

"A Christall Ever Garnisht with Diamonds and Rubies one of the Rubies being Queen Elizabeths head", wrote a careful scribe in 1690 as he prepared a schedule of the Countess of Exeter's gems.

The ewer was rediscovered two months ago, hidden among documents at the back of the muniment room in Burghley House, near Stamford, Lincolnshire. Two men from the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, who had come to help Lady Victoria Leatham, daughter of Lord Exeter, sort out the family documents, came upon it by chance.

The engraved rock crystal ewer, made in the Misoni workshop in Milan around 1660, was probably mounted in England around 1660 with

elegantly wrought enamelled gold foliage studded with diamonds and rubies. On the front is the only known cameo of Queen Elizabeth I carved on a precious stone - a large ruby.

The ewer is included in the exhibition, "The Countess's Gems", which will be on show when Burghley House opens to the public on Monday.

A Conveyance and Schedule of Gift, dated April 18, 1690, was found in the muniment room four years ago, during a search for documents to help with the probate valuation. It describes the possessions which Elizabeth, Countess of Devonshire, left to her daughter Anne, Countess of Exeter. Porcelain and silver listed in the inventory has already been

identified and exhibited. Six months ago, Lady Victoria, who has run Burghley since her fathers death, began on the objects of *virtu*, glittering but useless little objects created from precious metals and gems.

She started with a group she had found covered in sawdust in old orange boxes in the silver vaults. The first London Jeweller shown them described them as sixteenth century fakes.

Unconvinced, Lady Victoria went to the Victoria and Albert Museum where Miss Anna Somers-Cocks, assistant keeper of metalwork, identified them as the sixteenth and seventeenth century treasures gifted to the Countess in 1690, and "quite unique in the British Isles".

Dispute fails to halt new ferry

Industrial action by stevedores at Portsmouth docks yesterday failed to prevent a new ferry from arriving and leaving on time for the Channel Islands.

Management at Mainland Market Deliveries took out a High Court injunction against the Transport and General Workers Union, the dock workers' union, as the Corbiere arrived at the end of her sailing from the islands.

The Corbiere, 4,250 tonnes, is being put on the route between Portsmouth and Jersey and Guernsey by Channel Island Ferries, the newly-formed sister company to Brittany Ferries, and will sail daily.

Behind yesterday's celebrations, however, an industrial dispute was raging over the contract to handle the new ferry's freight. The contract has been won by Portsmouth Stevedores, a company owned

by Mainland Marketing Deliveries, in spite of competition from two other companies.

The Corbiere, which ends Sealink's monopoly on the cross-Channel route, was unloaded and loaded for the return journey three hours later without hindrance, after the injunction was issued.

Channel Islands Ferries has spent £250,000 refurbishing the Corbiere and aims to sell 10,000 tickets a month.

Campaign to save historic wild garden

By David Nicholson-Lord

A boggy wilderness which forms a unique part of Britain's garden history is under threat from Church of England plans to sell off neighbouring land for housing.

Conservationists have protested to the Archbishop of Canterbury and enlisted Dr David Bellamy in the campaign to save it.

At the centre of the dispute is a remarkable six-acre wild garden in the south London suburb of Shirley, near Croydon, which in summer and autumn is studded with marsh violets, orchids and loosestrife and relative rarities like May lilies, snake's head fritillary and Royal Fern.

The garden is doubly distinguished. It is probably the finest area of acid sphagnum

bog in Greater London and is the site of one of the earliest and most impressive ventures into wild-flower gardening; an approach now being supported by the conservation movement.

The garden has the added distinction of being the creation of the Rev William Wilks, breeder of the yellow-and-white Shirley poppy and the man who, as secretary of the Royal Horticultural Society for 31 years until 1919, is credited with saving the RHS from near-bankruptcy. While he was secretary, both Chelsea Flower Show and the society's gardens at Wisley came into being.

Wilks created the garden after retiring as vicar of Shirley in 1912. Then aged 69, he

bought a seven-acre plot next to the vicarage, built a house which he called The Wilderness and set about collecting native wild flowers on trips as far afield as Scotland.

The Wilderness is now an old people's home run by the Methodist Church. But it is the gardens of the neighbouring St John's Church - where Wilks perfected his poppy - which the Anglican Church wants to sell for building. Eleven detached houses are envisaged, with the land fetching up to £400,000.

Ten local conservation groups, represented by the Surrey Trust for Nature Conservation, have joined residents in opposing the proposal on the ground that the building would seriously disrupt water-

tables on which the garden's survival relies.

The trust is supported by the RHS, the Garden History Society and Dr David Goode, head of the Greater London Council's ecology section, as well as by Dr Bellamy and other leading conservationists. Croydon council has rejected the plans but the Church has appealed and a decision is expected soon.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has told protesters the Church sympathizes with conservation but needs the money. According to Mrs Deirdre Cleet, chairman of the trust, the gardens and their buildings - including the listed Victorian vicarage - should be declared a conservation area.

Apology to postmen over tip tax error

By Ian Griffiths

The Inland Revenue has apologized to Britain's postmen over its bungled attempt to tax them on their tips. Local taxmen failed to comply with standard procedures and taxed some workers on money they did not receive.

The situation came to light when some postal workers who do not receive tips, such as van drivers and sorters, received their notice of tax coding last autumn.

They found that the Inland Revenue had assumed they earned £150 a year in tips and that they would therefore be taxed on that amount.

Further investigation disclosed that this notional £150 had been applied across the board. No distinction was made between categories of workers and no allowance was made for postmen whose tips came to less than £150.

Tips are subject to tax but tax inspectors are supposed to establish who receives them and if possible, negotiate agreed amounts with employees before making an estimate. This was not done in the case of the postmen.

The apology from the Revenue came through Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in a written answer to parliament.

The Inland Revenue is now correcting its errors. Workers who do not receive tips will get a tax refund if they take the matter up with the local inspector.

Father who snatched his child sentenced

A father who snatched his young daughter in a custody dispute and fled with her to the United States, was given a one month jail sentence suspended for two years yesterday.

In the first case of its kind under the Child Abduction Act 1984, the chairman of the bench at Newbury Magistrates' Court told Mr John Boyd, aged 31, the sentence had been made to deter others, but he added that the court had taken into account his mitigating circumstances.

Boyd, took Kelly-Marie, aged four, from her mother's home in Newbury, Berkshire, last December. Police discovered they were in America when a letter was sent to Mrs Elizabeth Boyd by her former husband, the court heard.

Extradition proceedings were started but Boyd returned to England with his daughter. Of his own accord earlier this month when he realized the child was not settling in the United States.

The magistrates were told that Boyd feared his access to the child was being "whittled away" by his former wife and he believed the child was second best in her life.

The court heard that the couple were divorced last summer and joint custody of the child was awarded to both parents with care and control to her mother.

Mrs Boyd had moved out of the family home in December 1983.

Witnesses sought after murder of banker

By Rupert Morris

Police appealed for witnesses yesterday to the killing of an American banker who collapsed, stabbed, into the road in Albermarle Street, off Piccadilly, on Thursday night.

Mr John Sterling, aged 39, a vice-president of Citibank, based in Riyadh, was in London for a brief business trip, and was attacked at 10pm, shortly after leaving Brown's Restaurant, where he had dined alone. He was apparently on his way back to the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel, in Knightsbridge, where

he was staying.

A resident of Albermarle Street told police he heard Mr Sterling cry out, and from an upstairs window saw him stagger and collapse into the road. He died on the way to Westminster Hospital.

Although Mr Sterling had about £30 and \$US\$80 on him when he died, police said last night that attempted robbery remained the most likely motive, the thief having taken fright because of the number of potential witnesses.

Sex education video for boys' clubs

A sex education video aimed specifically at boys was shown for the first time yesterday as part of the Family Planning Association's campaign to "civilize" men's sexual behaviour.

The video, entitled "Danny's Big Night", is to be distributed to schools and youth clubs and is thought to be the first such video made in Britain specifically for boys.

It has been made by the FPA

as part of its Men Too campaign launched last October to persuade more men of all ages to take an equal share of the responsibility for their personal and sexual relationships.

Much of the campaign is being directed towards teenage youths who have grown up expecting their girl friends to take the contraceptive pill, and who have little or no knowledge of male contraception.

NUS deprives polytechnic of right to vote

The National Union of Students conference in Blackpool yesterday decided to disfranchise the Sunderland Polytechnic student's union. The decision will take effect at the Christmas conference.

The call to disfranchise the Sunderland union arose in response to a decision made by the union to ban the formation of a Jewish society, in accordance with the union's anti-racist policy. The Sunderland union holds Zionism as being inherently racist.

The decision follows the breakdown of efforts to find a negotiated settlement between the Union of Jewish Students, the Union of Palestinian Students and Sunderland Polytechnic students union.

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Blue Fox Jackets	£1,295	£550	£299	Stranded Raccoon Coats	£4,400	£875
Stranded Raccoon Jackets	£1,895	£895	£355	Stranded Female Mink Coats	£4,600	£1,275

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Draft criminal code aims to make law clear and consistent

By David Nicholson-Lord

An important step towards overhauling and simplifying Britain's criminal law was taken yesterday with the publication of a "model" Criminal Code Bill.

The draft code, containing 90 clauses, is the result of three years' work by a committee which examined how codification could make the law clear, consistent, understandable and readily available.

Attempts to codify British law have been made for more than 150 years.

The committee made clear yesterday that although codification was intended only as a restatement of the law, the measures they proposed would amount to a "very substantial reform".

The report comments: "The code cannot reproduce inconsistencies. Where the inconsistency represents a conflict of policies, a choice has to be made to produce a coherent law, but it is not for us to determine which policy is to prevail".

The commission described the report, produced by group from the Society of Public Teachers of Law under the chairmanship of Professor John Smith, of Nottingham University, as a preliminary step. In the next stage, commission lawyers would subject the draft Bill and the report to rigorous analysis. Comments from the public and lawyers on the proposed code were invited.

But the commission also emphasized the "great benefits" that could flow from codification. "A single Act of

Parliament can contain the law which is now spread through many pages of law reports and legal textbooks, and which may even then be uncertain", it said.

The commission also intends to set up a working group of practising lawyers, drawn from all branches of the profession, to examine the proposals.

Among inconsistencies singled out was the greater protection given in law to property than to the person. It described this as "indefensible".

The differential treatment of people and their property was caused by different applications of the concept of recklessness. In offences against the person, a person was reckless only if he was aware he was taking an unreasonable risk.

In the law on criminal damage, however, behaviour was reckless if the risk was one of which any reasonable person would have been aware.

The report also criticized the "substantial uncertainty" in parts of the criminal law. At present, it said, there were many minor statutory offences "where no one can predict with any confidence whether the offence will be held to impose liability without fault, or with a particular kind of fault".

Reforms already proposed by bodies such as the Criminal Law Revision Committee and other ad hoc committees, but not yet acted on by the Government, had been incorporated into the code. Where expert bodies have found the existing law defective, it would be quite wrong to perpetuate it, the report said.

Codification of the Criminal Law (The Law Commission, Law Com. No 143).



Lightweight Cambridge cox Henrietta Shaw, who weighs 6 stone 2lb, with John Garrett and Paddy Broughton at yesterday's weighing in for the Boat Race next Saturday. Photograph: Peter Trievnor

Thames TV fined for adoption contempt

Thames Television and Mr Michael Townson, editor of *TV Eye*, were fined yesterday for contempt of court. Confidential court documents had been used as an information source for a programme about adoption of children in care which featured the case of a girl aged seven whose natural mother had been fighting to get her back.

The company was fined £500 and Mr Townson £150. Sir John Arnold, President of the Family Division of the High Court, also imposed a one-month prison sentence on the child's mother for contempt, but suspended it provided she does not pester her daughter or her daughter's adoptive parents. He imposed a suspended three-month sentence

on the mother's husband on the same conditions. Both had been in contempt of court orders to stay away from the girl, he ruled.

The judge fined Mr Anthony Bennett, of Harlow, Essex, £100 for contempt.

The contempt proceedings were brought by the girl's adoptive parents. Most of the 40-day hearing was in private. The judge said that the contempt by Thames and Mr Townson involved use of confidential evidence given by a social worker about the mother's capacity to care for her child, and use of documents involved in an application by the mother in 1981 to the European Commission of Human Rights.

Arson raid by hunt saboteurs

A militant hunt saboteur group carried out a fire bomb attack on the home of the veteran show jumping commentator, Mr Dorian Williams, late on Thursday night.

The group calling itself The Hunt Retribution Squad lobbed paraffin-filled milk bottles at a horse box in the grounds of Mr Williams' home, Fosco Manor, Buckingham.

The gang of four set the horse box alight and daubed slogans on the gateposts.

Mr Williams, aged 70, show-jumping commentator with the BBC for 30 years, rides regularly to hounds and is president of the Whaddon Chase.

PARLIAMENT MARCH 29 1985

Labour demands more spending

SCOTLAND

The Government, with its political perspective and commitment to market forces had done little or nothing to stem the seemingly inexorable rise in unemployment and consequent growth in misery, Dr Norman Maclean (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) said in the Commons when opening a debate on industry and the economy in Scotland.

The Budget, he said, offered little relief for Scotland's unemployed and little hope for many of the major industries which had sustained the Scottish economy for many years.

Dr Gordon said it had not been a Budget for jobs in Scotland and the rest of the UK needed a Budget which would increase expenditure on what was a decaying or at the very least sharply deteriorating infrastructure.

Sir Hector Mearns (Dumfries, C) said there had not been rises in unemployment everywhere in Scotland. In two areas of his constituency there were now fewer people out of work than a year ago, and

there were probably similar situations in other parts of Scotland. Mr Gregor Mackenzie (Glasgow, Rutherglen, Lab) said there was no magic wand to help Scotland, but all the measures taken over the past five years had failed. The Prime Minister knew how much to the last penny was spent on the infrastructure of the Falkland Islands but not on the infrastructure of the United Kingdom. She had got her priorities upside down.

Mr William Walker (Tayside North, C) said Scotland had suffered from out-of-date management practices and intransigent trade unions. Increasing rates would damage jobs and unless the rating system was changed quickly the prospects for the long-term unemployed looked even bleaker.

Mr Norman Hogg (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Lab) said Cumbernauld had seen the destruction of industries founded on the new technologies which the Government were so anxious to claim for the Scottish economy. For his constituency he had found a site near Portmarnock to be £4.5 million cheaper than anywhere else.

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton (Edinburgh West, C) said he would

deplore a decision by the BSC to close the coke-making facilities at Ravenscraig.

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab) said the real level of unemployment in Scotland was nearly half a million people. The Government had been conducting an expensive heresy for people in a economic heresy for which there was neither any basis in ideas nor in material evidence.

Mr Barry Henderson (North East Fife, C) said all too often people had failed to put the customer first and the powerful trade unions had often kept reality at bay.

Mr Allan Stewart, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said Scotland was going through a process of fundamental change which provided the competitive edge for an economy.

Everyone would like to see an increase in employment but the number of jobs had been rising. It was absurd to claim that higher public spending would solve the problem. More spending on infrastructure simply meant higher borrowing, higher prices and a less competitive economy.

Music school decision defended

Mr John Lee, Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement, defended the decision to site a new Defence School of Music at Deal. In the Commons he refuted any suggestion that the local MP, Mr Peter Rees, had exerted improper influence in his position as Chief Secretary to the Treasury and a member of the Cabinet.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) who raised the issue in a short debate, maintained that the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, had been nobbled by Mr Rees. There had, he said, been financial jiggery-pokery.

The only reason for siting the school at Deal was a rather squalid and indefensible one - namely that it would help Mr Rees in his fight to retain his parliamentary seat (Dover).

What is being asserted here is that retention of that seat for that individual Cabinet minister is worth £4 million of taxpayers' money.

Mr Hamilton said a Civil Service study carried out by Mr Clive Ponsford had found a site near Portsmouth to be £4.5 million cheaper than anywhere else.

Mr Lee said it appeared at one stage

that the choice of Deal was not supported by an assessment of relative costs, but this was not borne out by a fuller appraisal.

The establishment of the defence school of music was expected to achieve savings of £1 million a year in operating costs.

He resumed the comments made on the integrity of Mr Rees and Mr Heseltine. Mr Rees had approached the Ministry of Defence in early 1984 as a constituency member when he learnt the Royal Marine School of Music at Deal might close.

Deal had a long association with the armed forces in general and the Royal Marines in particular.

Law Report March 30 1985

Teachers union ban unlawful

Regina v Burnham Primary and Secondary Committee, Ex parte Professional Association of Teachers

Before Mr Justice MacPherson (Judgment delivered March 29)

The teachers' panel of the Burnham Committee, through its National Union of Teachers (NUT) majority, was frustrating the intention of Parliament and the objects of the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1965 and acting unreasonably by excluding the representatives of the Professional Association of Teachers (PAT) from subcommittees of the committee.

Mr Justice MacPherson so held in the Queen's Bench Division when granting an application by PAT for judicial review of the matter of the composition of the salary structure working party and the pay data working party.

Mr Denis Henry, QC and Mrs Gillian Keene for PAT; Mr James Goudie, QC and Mr Michael Supperstone for the teachers panel; Mr John Laws for the secretary of state; Mr Ian Glick for the management panel.

MR JUSTICE MACPHERSON said that for over 60 years Burnham Committee had concerned themselves with teachers' salaries. No Act of Parliament controlled or underpinned Burnham until the committee's activities were anonymously catered for in section 89 of the Education Act 1944.

The Remuneration of Teachers Act 1965 created a new set of relationships. The representative composition of the committees was wholly in the hands of the Secretary of State for Education who was bound by section 1.

The secretary of state was obliged to appoint, *inter alia*, persons to represent management and teachers. Teachers were to be represented by person representing organizations appearing to the secretary of state to

represent teachers or particular descriptions of teachers.

On January 19, 1981 the secretary of state determined there should be a teachers' panel of 32 members: 16 of those were from the National Union of Teachers and for the first time one was from the Professional Association of Teachers.

The management panel of 32 members was appointed on the same day. The panels performed the bargaining and negotiating functions of Burnham.

The choice of those from the teachers' panel for appointment to their part of any subcommittee was in the hands of the panel itself. The NUT attitude was that its representatives just did not want PAT on the subcommittees or working parties. The reasons or motives for PAT's exclusion, was not particularly important.

There had been continuous exclusion of PAT's representative who had been denied audience and denied any satisfactory supply of documents relating to the working parties. The working parties' work was an important part of the Burnham Committee's work.

The question was whether the teachers' panel decision to form its part of the subcommittee as it had was either legally insupportable in a field of public law or contrary to the principles in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* [1948] 1 KB 223.

The decision of the teachers' panel was within the field of public law and reviewable as such. Since the teachers' panel was an integral part of full Burnham, the applicant was indeed seeking remedies which stemmed from public rights and duties and not private rights at all.

There were no private or contractual rights on which PAT could rely. Without these proceedings PAT would be without any remedy at all. The court should and would supervise the activities of

Burnham and its constituent parts.

Parliament plainly intended that all those "bodies" to be appointed by the secretary of state should play their part in the deliberations and decisions of Burnham.

It was the duty and right of all relevant bodies to see that the purposes of the statute were fulfilled. If one body appointed to help to further those purposes was systematically prevented from taking part in an important part of the committee's work then the committee's work would be frustrated. If one body appointed to help to further those purposes was systematically prevented from taking part in an important part of the committee's work then the committee's work would be frustrated. If one body appointed to help to further those purposes was systematically prevented from taking part in an important part of the committee's work then the committee's work would be frustrated.

The NUT majority was based simply on the fact of exclusion and the insistence of the teachers' panel (effectively by the representatives of the NUT) that the teachers' panel was master in its own house.

The actions taken to exclude PAT from the subcommittees was wholly unreasonable and such that no reasonable group appointing its representatives should have taken.

The teachers' panel decision wholly failed to consider a material matter, namely the balance and representation of views which the secretary of state wished to see permeate the work of Burnham.

Solicitors: Trotter Still & Keeling for Mr David Brierley, Derby; Mr Hugh Pierce; Treasury Solicitor: Beacherolls.

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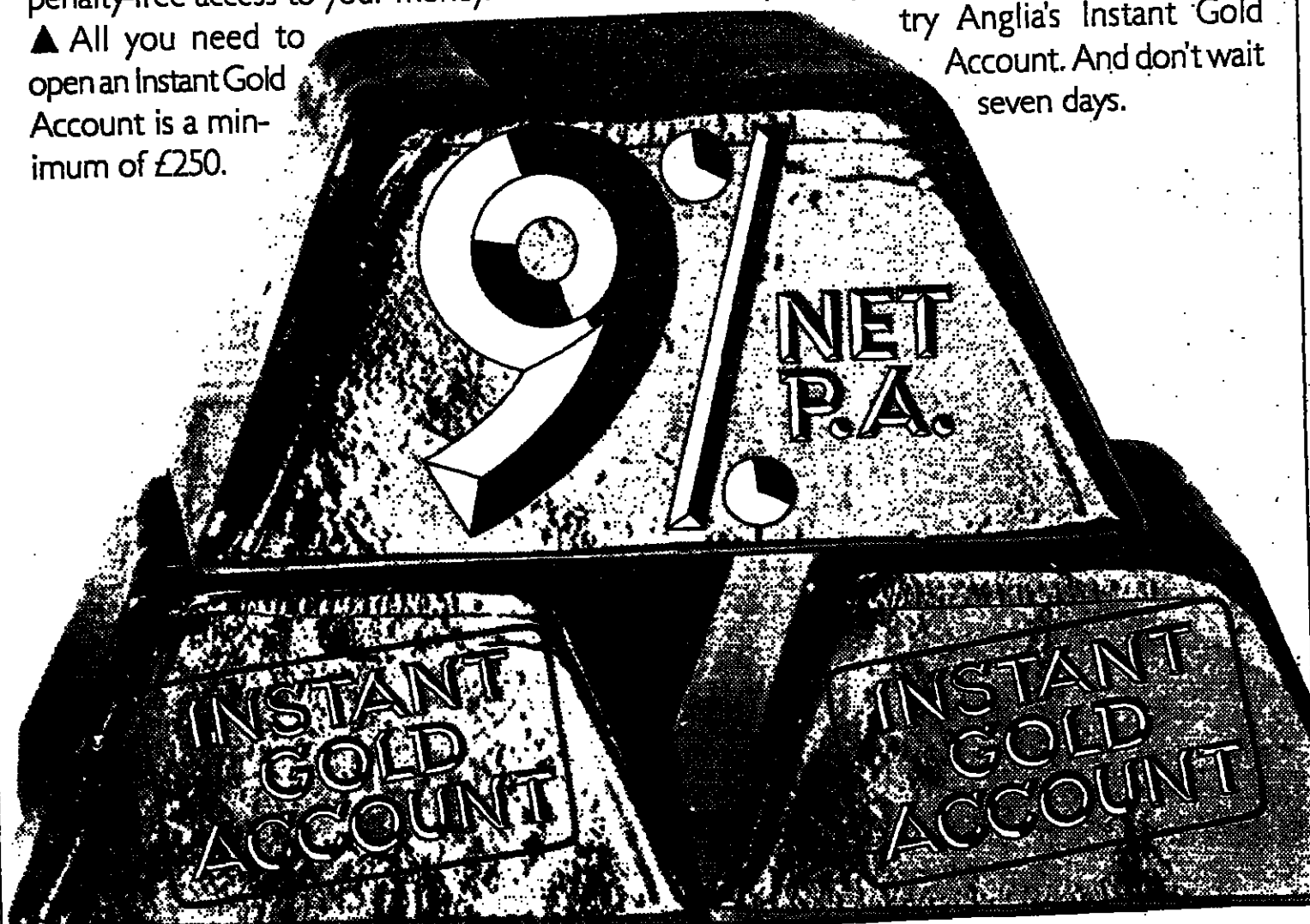
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JAN 10 1985

Police admit minister's version of South Africa shooting untrue

From Michael Hornsby, Uitenhage, South Africa

The commission of inquiry into the deaths of at least 19 blacks shot by the police near here on March 21 heard evidence yesterday that the account given to the South African Parliament by Mr Louis Le Grange, the Minister of Law and Order, was untrue on a number of counts.

This emerged during sharp cross-examination of Warrant Officer Wouter Pentz, one of the policemen involved in the shooting, by Mr Wim Tregrove, counsel representing 10 of the bereaved families.

Mr Le Grange told Parliament on the night of the shooting that a contingent of 19 policemen, faced by a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 blacks, had been "suddenly surrounded and pelted with sticks, stones and other missiles, including petrol bombs."

At first, Warrant Officer Pentz was reluctant to admit that Mr Le Grange's statement was untrue, conceding only that "it might have been a bit exaggerated" but that the basic facts in it were accurate.

Under tough questioning, however, he finally admitted: "We were not surrounded. The retreat option existed." The reason the police had not withdrawn was because a decision had been taken that "the crowd had to be stopped".

It is part of the police case that the crowd was intent on marching from the black township of Langa, about one and a half miles from here, to attack whites in Uitenhage.

The township's residents themselves say the crowd was peacefully making its way to a funeral for victims of earlier unrest, unaware that it had been banned on the previous evening by the local magistrate.

Warrant Officer Pentz also conceded that he had not seen any petrol bombs being thrown. He had seen the leader of the crowd, a man dressed in a knee-length black coat, take a bottle out of his pocket and he had thought it might have been a petrol bomb.

Warrant Officer Pentz said that when the crowd attacked the police they had been waving

sticks above their heads but had not thrown them. He maintained, however, that the police had come under a hail of rocks and stones.

He accepted that petrol bombs would have presented a far more serious threat than sticks and stones and that the two armoured vehicles the police were in would have been adequate protection against the latter unless the crowd had been able to climb into the vehicles.

Warrant Officer Pentz was unable to explain why photographs taken by the police after the shooting showed very few, if any, stones or rocks lying on the road at the point where the armoured vehicles were said to have come under attack.

The main police witness, Lieutenant John Fouche, who gave the orders to fire, appeared briefly on the witness stand and was asked to give his account of the shooting by the counsel for the Minister of Law and Order. He confirmed that no petrol bombs were thrown. He will be recalled to the witness stand next week.

Pretoria bans UDF meetings

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa imposed a three-month ban on meetings of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and 28 of its affiliates yesterday. Church and opposition leaders immediately labelled it an act of stupidity and desperation.

The bannings, effective from yesterday until June 30 on the orders of Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, were announced in the Government Gazette. They apply to 18 magisterial districts, mainly in the riot-torn Cape Province, and also to two districts in the Johannesburg area.

Apart from UDF gatherings, meetings of the Azanian Students' Organisation, the Black Students Movement, the Council of South African Students

and numerous black civic and youth movements have been banned.

Mr Le Grange has also outlawed attempts to organize work stoppages. It was a three-day stay-at-home call in the Uitenhage area that culminated in the killing by police of 19 blacks on March 21, the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

The Government's ban has been widely anticipated following a statement by President Botha on Wednesday that he had ordered "appropriate steps to be taken to maintain law and order". It comes only a week after the Government announced a year-long ban on all indoor meetings relating to the boycotting of schools

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Happy allies: President and Mrs Eanes on the royal yacht Britannia as dinner guests of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

Star Wars rebuke by Strauss

Bonn - Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the leader of the Christian Social Union, attacks the West German Government over "star wars" in an interview to be published today in *Bild Zeitung* (Frankfurt Johnson writes).

He accuses the Government of "too much shilly-shallying" which is confusing the public. Every day one reads something different about the Government's attitude to the American strategic defence initiative - sometimes yes, sometimes no, he says. "It's like picking the petals off a daisy - she loves me, she loves me not."

A creeping process of estrangement between Bonn and Washington had set in.

Petals and a royal peal for the Queen

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were yesterday given the most enthusiastic welcome of their Portuguese tour when, on their final day, they visited the ancient city of Oporto, linked with Britain through the port wine trade founded by English merchants.

In his welcoming speech the mayor of Oporto evoked the long alliance between England and Portugal and spoke of the important contribution made to Portuguese culture by the Britons who settled in Oporto. More than 1,000 live in Oporto at present, many of them associated with the port trade.

On Thursday at the historic town of Evora the Queen had also enjoyed a warm reception. Students of the University of Evora did a Walter Raleigh act and laid their capes on the ground so that she could walk over them into the university. She watched an equestrian display by riders in eighteenth-century costume.

Archbishop heads for Maori first

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

The Archbishop of New Zealand, The Most Reverend Paul Reeves, is to become the next Governor-General. It was announced yesterday. He will be the first Governor-General of Maori heritage in the nation's history.

The Archbishop, aged 53, will resign as primate of New Zealand on September 20. He is outspoken and a man of liberal views.

"There is no possibility of there being any implicit recognition of the Church of England as an established Church," said the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange.

Extradition of Rumasa head agreed by court

Frankfurt (Reuters) - A court here yesterday ruled that Señor José Ruiz Mateos, the former Rumasa holding group chairman, can be extradited to Spain on charges of inflating the credit volume of Rumasa Group banks and giving false information.

He also faces other charges in Spain after the collapse of his business empire, which he built up from a small sherry firm in 1961. He was arrested in April last year at Frankfurt airport.

Extradition could be delayed by his demand for political asylum, being studied by West German courts. He could also lodge a constitutional objection to being extradited.

£1m gems raid

Beirut (Reuters) - Thieves in Beirut's Armenian quarter shot dead a diamond merchant and four staff and made off with \$1.5 million (£1.2 million) worth of stones in Lebanon's bloodiest civil crime.

Neves stable

São Paulo - The condition of Brazil's President-elect, Senhor Tancredino Neves, remains stable, nearing the end of the critical 72-hour period after his third abdominal operation in 12 days.

Last escape

Paris (AP) - Bruno Sulak, aged 29, France's "king of prison escape artists", has died from injuries suffered when he jumped from a third-floor prison window two weeks ago.

Killer incense

Taipei (AP) - Five young brothers and sisters died when an anti-mosquito incense burner set their quilt on fire as they slept in Taitung, 240 miles from here.

73 killed in iron fist clampdown

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Official statistics released by the Israeli Army show that since the draconian "iron fist" security policy was introduced in southern Lebanon five weeks ago, 73 people alleged to be Lebanese guerrillas have been killed and more than 500 suspects arrested. In the latest incident on Thursday night Israeli soldiers ambushed a "terrorist squad" moving along the bed of the Litani river north-east of Tyre. Three members of the squad were killed and a number of weapons recovered.

During the much criticized raids now carried out on 23 different Shia Muslim villages, the Israelis have destroyed 64 buildings which they claim either belong to suspects, or in which arms were found.

Many of the buildings demolished in fact have been large family homes, and the action left scores of Lebanese citizens homeless. United Nations sources argue that such harsh tactics only serve to increase Lebanese support for the men waging the guerrilla war against the retreating Israeli troops.

Arms recovered during the raids have included 88 Kalashnikov rifles, two ground to air rockets, 18 anti-tank missiles, 24 rocket-propelled grenades, 12 bombs primed for use, and 2,000 detonators. The Israelis have also recovered 22 rocket launchers and nearly three quarters of a ton of explosives - but military sources acknowledge this is only a small proportion of the arsenal hidden throughout southern Lebanon.

TEL AVIV: The Labour Party led by Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, has gained enough support since the last election to win control of the Israeli Government without having to share power with its current partners, the Likud bloc, a poll published in the newspaper *Maariv* yesterday showed (AP report).

Meanwhile the Israeli Parliament approved a £19 billion budget early yesterday, cutting £1.5 billion from last year's spending. The spending cuts will affect all ministries and government subsidies on fuel and basic food items.

Leading article, page 13

Israel to station 500 'advisers' in enclave

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Israeli Army is expected to abandon the ancient city of Tyre in southern Lebanon within the next 11 days and to have withdrawn all its uniformed troops from the country by May 15.

But an Israeli officer has told local village leaders in the south of the country that at least 500 Israeli "advisers" will remain behind to supervise an enlarged border enclave controlled by yet another pro-Israeli militia - and that a "corridor" of territory will be held up to the Christian mountain town of Jezzine, 25 miles north of the Israeli frontier.

Lebanese village mukhtars from an area south-east of Tyre were summoned to a meeting at Bint Jbeil last Monday to be addressed by Major Shlomo Eliya of the Israeli Army who explained, according to the mukhtars' own account, that the new border enclave would include part of the zone at present patrolled by United Nations troops.

They say that Major Eliya outlined the new enclave which would run through the hill town of Tibnin, currently the battalion headquarters for Ireland's UN battalion in Lebanon.

The Israelis' original plan to retreat from Lebanon in two more stages appears to have been swept aside. But the concept of a "corridor" up to Jezzine - if it really takes shape - raises a number of disturbing questions for the Lebanese, especially now that Israel's Lebanese Phalangist militia allies in the town have joined Samir Geagea's mutiny against President Gemayel in Beirut.

East Tibnin, the Israeli enclave's northern edge is likely to follow the line of the Litani river below Beaufort Castle. From there, a road runs high up into the mountains to Jezzine. On this highway, Israeli troops have already built a series of small fortresses equipped with radio installations and watchtowers, and protected by large earth revetments.

These positions, first reported by *The Times* on March 1, may not be handed over to Israel's self-styled "Civil Defence" organization, the proposed militia successor to the steadily disintegrating "South Lebanon Army". The Israelis have just begun a recruitment campaign for their latest militia, a project of Lebanese Shia Muslims.

One of the villages likely to fall on the new enclave "line" is Shakra, where there were reports this week of house burnings by Israeli Shin Bet intelligence men and pro-Israeli Lebanese gunmen.

Whitehall advises Britons to quit central Baghdad

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office has advised all British residents to leave central Baghdad if they can, after the recent spate of explosions in the city.

The advice was given at a meeting attended by Mr Terry Clark, ambassador to Iraq, yesterday.

Mr Clark said he thought that Britons should leave for the suburbs or elsewhere "until the situation has stabilized".

About 1,100 of the 1,400 Britons in Iraq live in or near the capital. Similar advice was given to those in Iraq's second and more vulnerable city, Basra, several months ago.

The Foreign Office also issued a statement yesterday which said that the Government "vigorously condemned" the use of chemical weapons in the Gulf war - after reports of resurgent gas attacks by Iraqi troops against Iran.

JERUSALEM - Israel may decide to shift its support from Iran to Iraq in the Gulf war because of what Israeli officials perceive as a moderation in Iraqi policies, the *Haaretz* newspaper said yesterday (AFP reports).

Haaretz said the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, had been encouraged by the emergence of a "moderate camp" of Arab countries.

Ghana aims to boost cocoa crop

Accra (Reuters) - Ghana's cocoa industry is a shadow of the size it was nearly 20 years ago when it produced the biggest crop in the world, but the Government is making strenuous efforts to rehabilitate this cash-crop.

An ambitious programme launched last year aims virtually to double annual output over the next three to four years to 300,000 tonnes, according to Mr Augustine Gyamfi, acting executive director of Ghana's cocoa services division. He says the target could be achieved from the existing tree-stock if farmers were paid enough for their cocoa beans and got the equipment needed.

Ghana's cocoa output has declined steadily since 1965, when it produced 560,000 tonnes. Last season's crop, hit by drought and bush fires, totalled only 158,000 tonnes.

Earlier this year the Government increased the price paid to farmers by 50 per cent to 900 cedis (£18.75) per 60lb "head-load" to try to stop them

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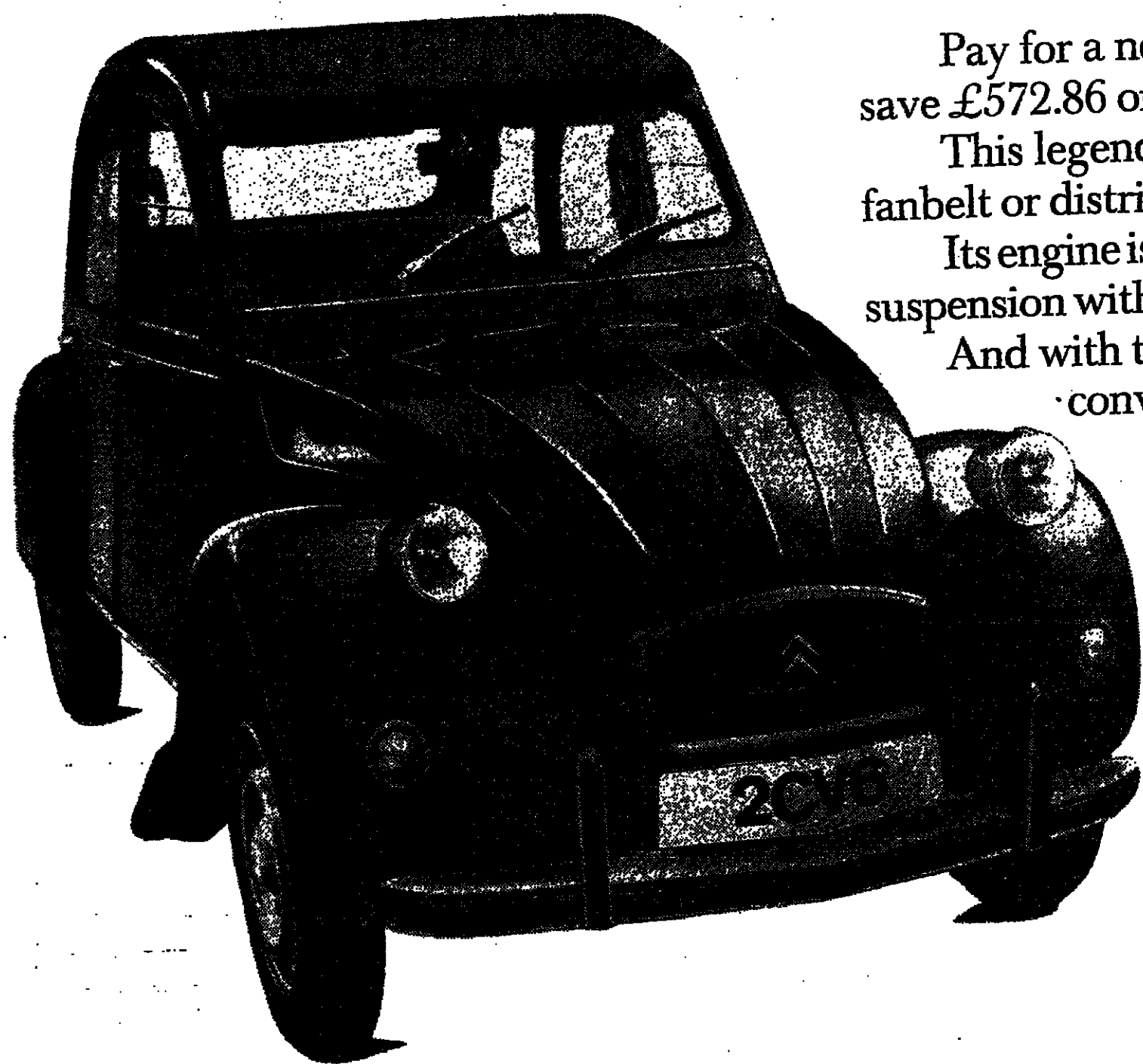
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Or serving abroad with the Foreign Office.

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First, find out what you're good at.

Ideally, you wouldn't specialise straightaway.

You'd spend your first few years exploring different jobs.

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Army Officer

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Crowd attacks MP as Socialists scrape to victory in Greek vote

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A crowd outside the Greek Parliament yesterday beat up Mr Stathis Panagoulis, an independent Socialist deputy, in the belief that he was one of the election of Mr Christos Sartzetakis, the Socialist presidential candidate, to remain open to question.

Confusion and disorder broke out in the chamber when it became clear Mr Sartzetakis had obtained 180 votes, the bare minimum needed in yesterday's third round of polling. This was reached thanks only to the controversial votes of Mr Yiannis Alevras, the Socialist Speaker, who is acting President.

His right to vote while discharging his duties as head of state was questioned by Mr Constantinos Mitsotakis, leader of the conservative New Democracy, the main opposition party.

He stood up in the middle of the pandemonium and said: "In the circumstances, we consider that there has been no election of the president of the republic. We appeal to Mr Sartzetakis to reconsider. If he accepts his election, however, the problem will have to be resolved by the Greek people in the next general election, which we want as soon as possible."

It was clear the Government had taken all precautions to try

to ensure its candidate would obtain 182 votes, including Mr Alevras's.

Opposition deputies shouted: "Shame, shame," when they saw that once again, the ballot papers distributed to the 300 deputies were of different colours - a sure for Mr Sartzetakis, and white for those wishing to oppose him. Under the constitution, voting is secret.

As if this were not enough, the 164 Socialist deputies, including most Cabinet ministers, were made to sit by constituencies in the order of voting, for better surveillance. They inserted their ballot papers in the envelopes on their desks in full view of each other, and left the blank papers conspicuously lying around.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, said he saw nothing wrong with these methods. There was no harm in having an open ballot. For the first time, he challenged the constitutional provision for secrecy, on the ground that his party had never approved of the 1975 constitution.

However, in defiance of this tight policing, two deputies who had evidently voted for Mr Sartzetakis in the last round, spilt their papers in protest. One inserted both ballot papers in his envelope and the other fixed a "no" sticker on his acceptance paper.

The Opposition protested that other forms of intimidation were being used by the Socialists. Mr Mitsotakis deplored the massing of chanting pro-government demonstrators outside Parliament, who were kept at bay by police.

Parliament is voting under duress. It is surrounded by government supporters brought in from all parts of Greece, ready to move at a signal, depending on the result of the vote.

The Opposition Leader waved a pro-Government newspaper with the banner headline: "Life of any traitor would be in jeopardy."

Mr Mitsotakis said: "These tragic violations are shaking the very foundations of democracy. I feel the need to ask the Prime Minister: 'Where are you leading this country, Mr Papandreu?'"

When the acting Speaker ordered voting to begin, the New Democracy deputies stood up and shouted that the election was illegal. A censure motion against the acting Speaker for violating the rules was ignored until voting was over.

The Prime Minister agreed with Mr Mitsotakis that elections were important in solving the nation's problems. "But I am warning you that the next Parliament will not elect a new president."

The man whose courage inspired Z

From Our Correspondent Athens

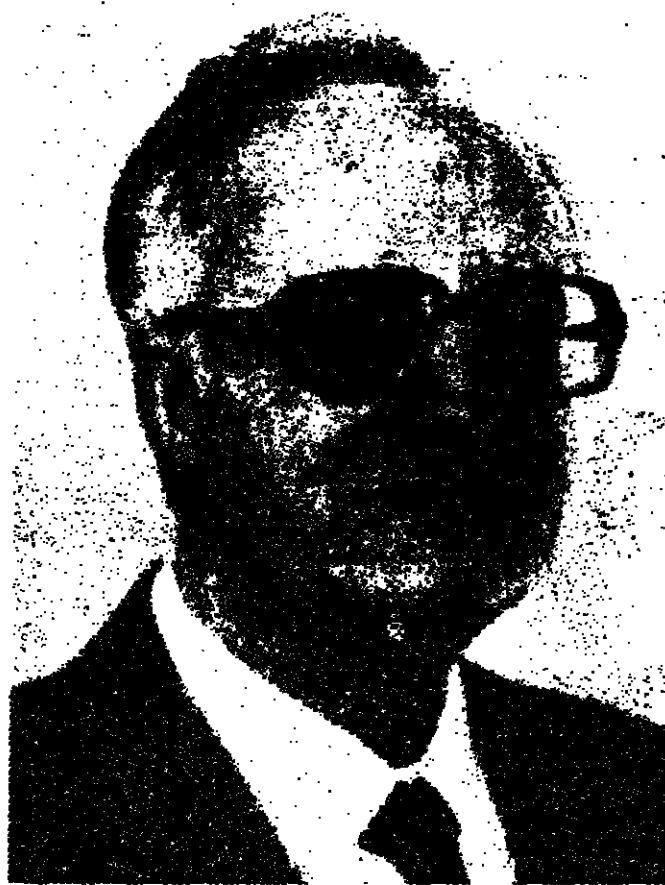
Judge Christos Sartzetakis came to prominence as the investigating magistrate in what was to become a cause célèbre in Greek politics - the assassination of Gregory Lambrakis, a left-wing deputy, by right-wing hooligans in Salonika in May, 1963. He is widely respected for the courage and integrity he displayed at that time and is regarded as apolitical.

Resisting pressures that built up around him, he exposed collusion between the killers and the local gendarmie commanders, who had tried to dismiss the case as a traffic accident. They and their accomplices were charged, tried and jailed.

The young magistrate's role inspired the novel Z by the Greek author Vasilis Vasilikos, which was made in 1968 into a prize-winning film in which Mr Sartzetakis was portrayed by the French actor Jean-Louis Trintignant.

When Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist Prime Minister, nominated him for the presidency, he said of him: "He is a symbol of our struggle for democracy and freedom."

Born in Salonika in 1929, Mr Sartzetakis is the son of a gendarmie officer from Crete. He studied law at Salonika university, 1946-50 and was admitted to the bar in 1954. He became a justice of the peace in



Centre of the storm: President-elect Sartzetakis, who won yesterday with the minimum vote.

1955, judge of first instance in 1956 and investigating magistrate in the Lambrakis affair from 1963-64. The next year he went to Paris for postgraduate studies but was recalled by the Greek junta in 1967 and was posted to the Valos court of misdemeanours. In 1969, after an unsuccessful

return to private practice, he was arrested on unspecified charges by the junta, held for 50 days and released. Mr Sartzetakis was reinstated after the fall of the junta in 1974 as an appeal judge, promoted to senior appeal judge in 1981 and posted to Nafplion, south Greece.

Pentagon bars new defence contracts for General Electric

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The Pentagon yesterday imposed a temporary ban on General Electric from obtaining new defence contracts. It also demanded that General Electric and the Pratt and Whitney, aero-engine division of United Technologies refund to the US Government \$208 million (£168 million) in what the Pentagon considers to be excessive profits.

General Verne Orr, the Secretary for the Air Force, said the decision to suspend General Electric, the nation's fourth largest defence contractor, was taken following a federal grand jury indictment earlier this week charging the company with falsifying \$800,000 in claims and lying to the Government about work on a nuclear warhead for the Minuteman missile.

The ban will last until the case has been resolved or the Government decides to lift it.

Yesterday's actions reflect an intensification of the Defence Department's crackdown on the growing problem of errant defence contractors. Earlier this month the Pentagon placed a 30-day freeze on overhead payments to General Dynamics. Other companies which have recently been chastised by the Pentagon include McDonnell Douglas, Lockheed, Hughes Aircraft and Texas Instruments.

The Pentagon's actions are in response to growing criticism in Congress about waste in defence spending. The cost of procuring arms is now running at more than \$100 billion a year. Both General Electric and Pratt and Whitney have issued statements denying any wrong doing or making excessive profits.

Kremlin computer drive

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Politburo has laid down a programme of computer courses in secondary schools intended to "ensure computer literacy" among pupils and teachers. A report of this week's Politburo meeting published in Pravda yesterday said the courses in computer technology would begin on September 1, at the start of the new academic year.

Micro-computers are almost unknown in Russian homes and schools. In January the Politburo ordered education authorities to install classroom computers in the Soviet Union's 140,000 primary and secondary schools but did not clarify how this massive effort to leap the technology gap between Russia and the West could be achieved.

Disinvestment campaign grows

US banks rally to anti-apartheid fight

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Bank of Boston, the biggest bank in New England, has joined six other US banks in "prohibiting loans to private and banks in South Africa."

The bank became the latest in a growing list of financial institutions, colleges, churches and city and state governments in the United States to curb investment in South Africa in protest against apartheid.

So far five states have placed restrictions on the investment of their money in South African-connected banks and businesses - legislation is pending in 28 others. Almost every week another city council introduces similar restrictions - among the most recent were Miami and New York.

The disinvestment campaign is the less visible side of a burgeoning protest movement against apartheid which has swept across the United States during the past five months.

Its aim is to persuade the Reagan Administration to take a tougher stand against South Africa in the hope that this will induce Pretoria to abandon its racial policies.

The most publicly-visible side of the movement has been the daily demonstrations outside the South African Embassy in Washington and other South African missions across the country.

Each evening a number of demonstrators deliberately get themselves arrested under the watchful eye of the TV cameras in order to dramatize their protests and attract attention. Over 1,650 have been arrested outside the embassy - including a number of prominent congressmen and entertainers - and almost 2,700 nationwide since the protests began.

So far the protesters have not succeeded in persuading the Administration to reconsider its "constructive engagement" policy of the past four years - despite the widespread repugnance felt over the latest killings and arrests in the Eastern Cape.

Successive US governments have followed a carrot-and-stick approach to South Africa: expressing concern about apartheid while recognizing the strategic and economic importance of having a pro-Western government there.

The Carter Administration attempted to use more stick than carrot to bring about change, escalating US criticism of apartheid and imposing an embargo on the sale of US goods to South African military and police forces.

The Reagan Administration reversed this process, relaxing the arms embargo, restrictions and lowering the tone of criticism of apartheid in the belief that South Africa was more likely to respond positively to friendly rather than hostile pressure.

Mr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and architect of the "constructive engagement" has made it clear that the US will persevere with this policy, despite last week's killings. He said in a television interview last Sunday that US leverage would continue to be "political and psychological, not coercive."

President Reagan and Mr Crocker insist that "constructive engagement" has been successful. Internally, they cite the recent constitutional reforms and some modifying of apartheid laws as an example of how South Africa responds to friendly advice.

Externally, they claim their "even-handed" approach has led to a reduction of cross-border tension between South Africa and its black neighbours and predict that it will soon be crowned by a settlement of the long-running Namibia independence issue.

The Administration's critics say that "constructive engagement" has reinforced South Africa's determination to push ahead with its racial policies and that the few changes that have taken place are merely "window dressing" intended to please the US Government.

This argument was strongly supported by the Rt Rev Desmond Tutu, the black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, who said during a visit to Washington last December that American "collaboration" with South Africa was "immoral, evil and totally unchristian."

Despite the Administration's insistence that it will not change its present policy, pressure is building up in Congress to pass a Bill mandating several immediate economic sanctions.

On March 7, Senator Edward Kennedy and Representative William Gray simultaneously introduced an "anti-apartheid Bill" in both houses of Congress calling for a ban on bank loans and computer sales to the South African Government. It also proposes a ban on the sale of Krugerrands and restrictions on private investment and loans. The Senate foreign relations committee approved the Bill on Thursday.

A similar Bill was passed by the House in 1983 but failed to get through the Republican-controlled Senate last year. Supporters of the bill are confident it will again be approved by the House.

The latest unrest has made many Senators aware that the American public is becoming increasingly uneasy about the situation in South Africa - a country which few Americans had bothered to focus on until the Embassy protests began last year - and the Administration's refusal to take a tougher stand towards Pretoria.

Chinese deny doing big arms deal with Iran

Peking (AP) - The Chinese Government yesterday dismissed as "sheer fabrication" a press report which said Iran had secured a \$1.6 billion (£1.3 billion) arms contract with China.

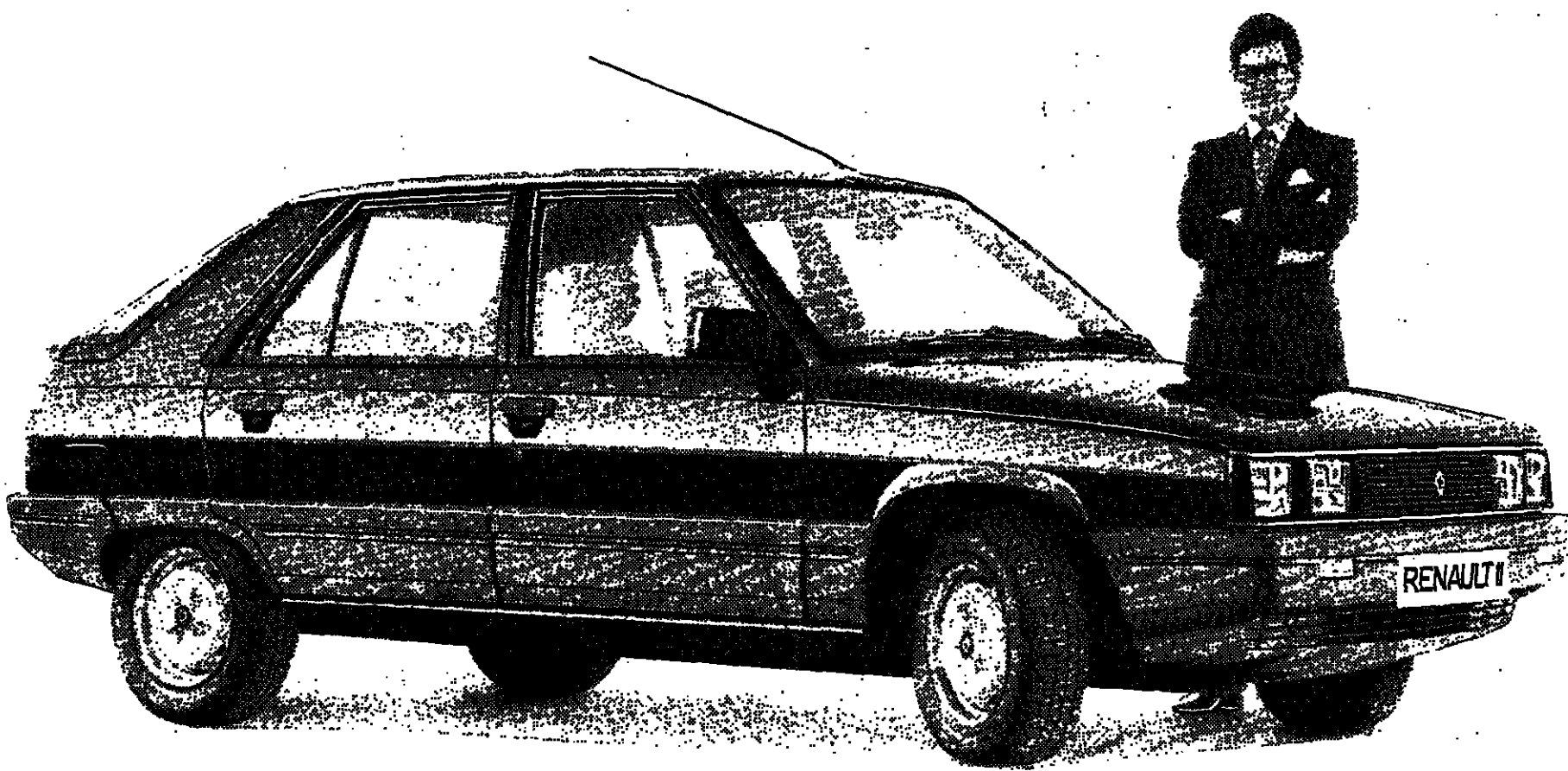
The London-based Al-Taqdir newsletter reported on Wednesday that China agreed to supply fighter planes, tanks, rocket launchers, missiles and field guns in Iran's biggest weapons deal since the 1979 revolution. In return, Iran agreed to supply two million tons of crude oil

and pay the remainder of the bill in cash.

Yesterday a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman emphasised Peking's neutral position on the Iran-Iraq war and said: "The news that China and Iran concluded an agreement on Chinese weapons sales to Iran is sheer fabrication."

China has all along observed strict neutrality and stood for an early end to this sanguinary conflict between the two warring parties through peaceful consultation.

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THE ARTS

The curtain rises on the Stratford season next week with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Sheridan Morley talks to director Bill Alexander about his reasons for setting it in the Macmillan era

Why Falstaff has never had it so good

"*The Merry Wives of Windsor*" has had two immensely successful productions in Elizabethan dress over the last 15 years at Stratford, one directed by Terry Hands and the other by Trevor Nunn. Now it has come round again because the comedies always come round faster than the tragedies, but this time it clearly had to be rethought and relocated.

Thus Bill Alexander, at 37 the second youngest of the six "young Turk" associated directors who now run Stratford and the Barbican under Nunn and Hands, and the one who will be opening the Stratford main-house season on Wednesday at the start of what promises to be a busy year.

Alexander then has to transfer his hugely successful *Richard III* to the Barbican, as well as his small-stage production of Robert Holman's *Today* before setting up a three-play season of new work by Howard Barker in *The Pit*. Then he goes to Poland to do *Timon of Athens* in Warsaw, the first English director to work with a native company there in many years.

But, for now, Alexander's thoughts are firmly fixed on the problems of *The Merry Wives*: "Having decided that for the first time in my life I was going to shift a play out of its original period, I began to think about the decade that would suit it best; this, after all, is one of the very few Shakespearean plays about the new, powerful bourgeoisie class that was emerging in a time of upward mobility, and the time of the 1950s 'You've never had it so good' Macmillan election slogan seemed an utterly perfect matching period."

"That rich, suburban, philistine, Bevis-Bromley Jaguar world was exactly the kind of world Falstaff moved into at Windsor when he had to get away from London, and there too you find a sharp suburban morality where housewives would be outraged at the way Falstaff treats all women as farts."

"And that was also the last time that England was still quintessentially English; before the new technology, before Wilson, before it all went American and Common Market; it was the world of the last Ealing Comedies and the first *Carry On* farces, when people still had Coronation mugs on their shelves. It was still the time of 'new Elizabethans', when there was a strong awareness that, as in the time of the first Elizabeth, the country had come out of a long bleak war into a period of



Bill Alexander directs at Stratford: "The Macmillan slogan seemed an utterly perfect matching period."

sudden prosperity and confidence; but it was also a time when the social boundaries were being redrawn, and people were therefore very nervous about maintaining their precise rank in the social order - which is exactly what *The Merry Wives* is all about.

"Of course some people are going to be annoyed by the modern dress; they always are. But it seems to me that the advantages of the time-shift outweigh the disadvantages. I won't know whether I'm right until we get in front of an audience. *Taruffe* was like that: I went through all the rehearsals in a state of deep despair about how difficult and unfunny the play seemed, and then at the first preview audience laughter showed me precisely how the

play was supposed to work. It was written by an actor for other actors, and so was *The Merry Wives*; you have to do it before you really understand it."

Alexander's own background was far removed from the theatre, though it does perhaps explain a strong sense of religious fervour which runs through the three most widely acclaimed RSC productions he has done with Anthony Sher (*Mollie*, *Taruffe* and *Richard III*).

Alexander is the son and grandson of professional Salvation Army officers, and after a public-school and Keele University education he had vague plans to become either a priest or an archaeologist. Instead however he

got into Ed Berman's company of strolling players and started his career as an actor bent double on the tops of London buses with Berman's Fun-Out troupe. From there he won a Thames Television trainee directorship to the Bristol Old Vic, then under the direction of Val May.

"He spent two years calling me Ben and trying to figure out what he was supposed to be doing with me; but the studio space there was then quite new and I did about a dozen productions including the first in rep of *Ride Across Lake Constance*."

"Then I did two years at the Royal Court, mainly in the Theatre Upstairs, and after that had a miserable freelance year before the RSC offered

me an assistant directorship. I took that, joined to work on the Donald Sinden *King Lear*, and I've been with the company ever since, though the arrangement is that each associate is allowed to do one freelance job a year amid a lot of grumbling from the others about missed meetings and extra duties.

"But I like a regular weekly paycheck instead of hacking around from job to job; it's not just the security, it's also knowing that you can always do plays you want to do instead of plays you have to do for a living, however rubbish they may be. And I like the other directors here. I think I like them more than most actors. The trouble with actors is that I only know about three I could trust never, ever, ever to appear on *All Star Secrets*. They are by and large a vain and greedy and insecure lot, and not necessarily the ones in the RSC. I mean actors generally."

Talking of insecurity, I wondered whether the immense Stratford success of *Richard III* (which probably got the best reviews of any main-stage Shakespeare of the 1980s) had made him a more bankable proposition.

"Not really: I didn't suddenly get a flood of other offers, or indeed any at all. But I think that's because if you're an RSC associate director, people know you're unlikely to be free to consider anything else. But I was surprised by how good those reviews were in rehearsal all I really knew was that I wanted to look at the play as the start of the modern world, 1485 and all that."

"After centuries of being ruled by either robber barons or puffers, England was suddenly about to get its first accountant King in Henry VII, and Richard III is about the transition from a medieval world to a modern one. It's also a ritualistic morality play, and they have always fascinated me."

London audiences have a chance to see that *Richard* at the Barbican from April 25 to a somewhat recent production, though with Anthony Sher still in the lead as for Mr Alexander's earlier work with Sher, both their studio productions from the Other Place and The Pit (*Mollie* and *Taruffe*) have recently been recorded for BBC television showings later this year.

● RSC picture makes a rogue's return - page 28

Concerts

ECO/Menuhin

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Try thinking of the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No 1 as an overture for an absurd opera about a concert pianist. First we hear him frantically practising scales and arpeggios. The salon-style Andante represents love at first sight with a cellist, or a number of different cellists. Those fanfares between movements clearly mean a brief but glorious career as a cavalry officer, and finally a champagne gallop signals success in the Leeds piano competition.

This is one way of saying that the piece plumbs no great emotional depths but is great fun nevertheless, given the right pair of mercurial hands. The teenage Korean pianist Ju Hee Suh neglected to win the Leeds competition (she was last year's

runner-up) but in every other respect she was the ideal executant.

The precision and ebullience of her passagework in the outer movements was outstanding; the finale in particular had an insouciant verve. Moreover, she repaid Menuhin's courtesy in the opening movement (he had filtered away the held woodwind chords so that they seemed to drift in and out of her scales) by being content to accompany the lower strings in their purple sentiments later.

Her rhythmic sense is acute, and her tone, though a shade unvaried, is carefully weighted. Only the matter-of-fact treatment of the first movement's second subject raised a doubt about her ability to handle music with greater expressive requirements.

Yehudi Menuhin and the ECO are shortly to renounce all

this jolly stuff for a reverential fortnight of solid Bach. A pity. I would like to hear more of Menuhin's invigorating way with Haydn. Here his Symphony No 101 was pacy but always built on a rich, firm tutti sound, which made an especially dramatic appearance with the minor episode of the "clock" movement. The "late entry" joke in the Trio, so often simply unfunny, was characterized with delicious hesitancy by flautist William Bennett.

Earlier we had heard Edwin Fischer's string-orchestra arrangement of Mozart's F minor Fantasia for mechanical organ. Some of Fischer's scoring sounded pragmatic rather than Mozartian, but the ECO violins, responding to a master string-player, played the central arioso with great style.

Richard Morrison

LSO/Abbado

Barbican

In the beginning, putting it too simply, Mahler began Schoenberg began Webern began Luciano Berio. But children do not necessarily resemble their great-grandfathers and Berio's output has been subjected to countless other influences along the way, enough, in fact, to obliterate what common ground there might be.

Berio's classic work of the Sixties, his *Sinfonia*, tells us through its quotations of the older man's work that the link has not been forgotten, however, and in the latest mighty instalment of the Mahler Vienna and the Twentieth Century Festival Berio's Concerto for Two Pianos, first performed in 1973, and Mahler's Fifth Symphony re-

vealed the closeness of the two men's aesthetic ideals.

The closeness does not extend to their musical languages, of course. That of the Berio is pinned down only by the composer's determination to make something coherent in a work which by nature is explosive.

For all the surging energy of the Mahler, and despite its debts to the Austro-Germanic tradition of symphonic thought, that same close examination of something immovable, which on one level might be seen as the form itself, and on another as the human condition, occurs here. It confronts the strange, bewildering world we live in, never quite managing, despite the enraptured glory of its ending, to answer the questions it poses. Indeed the Sixth Symphony seems uncomfortably close at hand in that grim

funeral and its traumatic sequel.

In both momentous works it was good to hear the London Symphony Orchestra at their alert best, though in this acoustic there was a tendency for the brass section to sound unduly prominent. For the Berio the soloists were Bruno Canino and Antonio Ballista, as unruffled as usual by the considerable demands put before them.

Claudio Abbado conducted throughout with the kind of commitment that demands that the listener reflects on the music's meaning rather than revelling superficially in the sensation of sound, though it was quite apparent that the quality of playing was of a standard which would have charmed even the most casually interested members of the audience.

Stephen Pettitt

Opera

Wozzeck

Paris Opéra

Ruth Berghaus certainly keeps her capacity to surprise. Where her *Don Giovanni* for Welsh National Opera last year was a sprawling heap of insignificance, her production of *Wozzeck*, recently presented at the Berlin State Opera and now resituated in Paris, is monolithic. This is a *Wozzeck* of the city. The opening scenes are played upon and around a concrete facade of staircases, crypts and small chambers bearing a disconcerting resemblance to the South Bank; that same ominous pale grey is the presiding colour spilling over into all the military-style costumes. Then gradually the facade splits open to reveal an expressionist landscape of towering skyscrapers out of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*.

This is a shade too obvious. The connection between *Wozzeck* and contemporary German cinema needs no emphasis, and to say that Berg's opera is a masterpiece of expressionism is hardly to say anything very new or exciting; but, though there is a disappointing sense of *deja vu* in the stage picture after the first scenes, the production continues to worry one quite satisfactorily simply because Miss Berghaus has her own curious ways of making people behave curiously.

At least I assume she is the one to be acknowledged. Quite apart from the fact that the spaces are designed by the architect Hans Dieter Schaal's sets the production credits Sigrid Neff for "dramaturgy", and his is the essay in the programme book that discusses such focal points as the circularity of the motif of the knife. One of the neat ideas in this production is that the child at the end should be left playing with a hobby-horse but with the razor that his father



Wozzeck: masterpiece of expressionism

will use when we next return to Act I Scene 1.

Smaller cycles abound too in the action. The ribbons of marching, dancing, strolling, stabbing, copulating run through the opera. The post-earthquake city is peopled by figures engaged in these repetitive movements or standing like tailor's dummies or hanging in mid-air like the bowler-hatted genies in a Magritte skyscape. Marie and the Drum Major rush into each other's arms several times before and during the first tavern scene, picturing Wozzeck's obsessive jealousy in a manner that is again perhaps a little too definite.

One tends to prefer those aspects of this production which are not so obviously functional, like the transvestite emblems sported in the same scene by most of the exclusively male dancers, the wigs, stockings, long gloves and high-heeled shoes then to be cast off scornfully, for some reason, on the supine body of Wozzeck. This scene is all the more astonishing because, coming an hour into the opera, played

without a break, it is one's first sight of colour, and it is effectively trumped by the vivid plastic dresses of the girls in the second tavern scene.

Unfortunately the opera does not sound as striking as it looks. This is the first *Wozzeck* that the Paris Opéra has mounted since the Boulez-Barrault production in the mid-Sixties and the orchestra obviously has no familiarity with the music at all. Christoph von Dohnanyi has probably conducted this score more often than anyone else, but even he could not avoid a plentiful supply of brass fluffs and a general sense of orchestral disarray.

The cast is led by Peter Gottlieb, a very taciturn, saturnine Wozzeck, not terribly keen to indicate which pitch he might be singing on. Anja Silja allows no such doubts in her still strongly sung and strongly acted Marie; she also adapts unflinchingly to the cold view of the woman as harlot in this production. There are further performances spaced throughout most of next month.

Paul Griffiths

Television

The danger with a television programme devoted to the events of any given 24 hours in one particular institution is that very little of interest may take place in the prescribed time span.

Just Another Day (BBC 2), the eight-part documentary series which goes behind the scenes at various national institutions, was devoted to the Tower of London last night.

It was evident that the major incidents of the day the television crew spent at the Tower were the discovery of a sparrow in the Jewel House and the temporary loss of a small child's mother outside. The most urgent question to emerge during the documentary was why one of the burly Yeoman Warders had chosen to fill his bedroom with enough cuddly toys to equip an orphanage.

The programme makers had evidently suffered certain restrictions. The Lord Chamberlain has ruled that the Crown Jewels may not be filmed, and the regulation was not waived for the BBC, so one was left with a frustrating sense of being on a treasure hunt and knowing that the loot had already been buried on another island.

There was a studious avoidance of the banal. The contribution of Gilbert and Sullivan to the mythology of the Tower was disdained; no one sunk to asking searching questions about supernatural encounters in the Bloody Tower.

The day chosen was at least a sunny one but as it wore on the

lack of action began to give the affair an air of desperation. At times such as this, a director is grateful for the presence of lovable dogs, of which the avid camera discovered four. The Tower's famous ravens made several appearances, lumbering with an ungainly motion around the clipped lawns and making noises which sounded like pigs.

The Governor obligingly provided some movement by chatting to three tourists from Mississippi, and the man in charge of the armour and weapons gamely injected suspense by trying to find a place in the damascened helmets for a decorated steel pin.

The film had a curious sense of having its head tucked underneath its arm, but its saving grace was the subtle juxtaposition of nationalistic statements by the Tower's workers. "All British stuff, not a load of old rubbish at all, nothing made in Hong Kong," said the man delivering souvenirs, himself a native of Gibraltar.

"We do not have to feel sorry for our American friends at this point - no history of their own," boasted a Beefeater to a rapt group of tourists who stood in front of the original Water-gate.

Chauvinism, in the old fashioned sense of the word, was clearly preserved in the ancient keep along with the regalia and ceremony of past ages.

Celia Brayfield

Radio

At the end of a week in which the BBC's hopes of a £65 licence fee were dashed, it may be a crumb of comfort to be able to record the revival of two comedy series likely to keep a good many of us laughing throughout this ungenerous spring as we face whatever cuts may be ahead of us.

Nineteen Ninety-four (Radio 4, Saturdays) repeating Mondays, produced by Nick Symons, is set in that just-around-the-corner Britain whose foundations are already sufficiently visible to allow its authors, Richard Turner and William Osborne, to use them as the launching pad for their flights of fancy. They have taken certain familiar themes of the 1980s - privatisation, unemployment, the implacable march of the electronic age - and given them the sort of well-judged push that leaves them floating free, yet tethered (just) to what we already know.

So innocent Edward (Robert Lindsay) at the age of 27 goes out for his first job interview, leaving behind the flat where the gadgetry, all equipped with voice simulation and cunningly designed to save his every possible labour, not only fails in that purpose - the "Fletcher" keeps on falling over and can't pick itself up - but needles him with smart alec remarks and even discusses his behaviour to his face. This is the tyranny of the domestic servant doubled and redoubled.

Edward repairs to the Department of the Environment, now fully privatised, and in a delightful sequence is interviewed and then sent out of the room to await his interviewers' judgement. They briefly twiddle their thumbs before consulting the VDU which to their astonishment (and ours) decrees in Edward's favour. Of course computer decisions are not for questioning. Thus Edward is embarked on a career which, if this splendidly inventive first script is anything to go by, promises to be satisfyingly hilarious. I was particularly gratified by the 1994 technique of job description turned on its head - the description, as Edward finds when he does it, is what creates the job.

Move on a couple of days

and we go back into the present. The action of *King Street Junior* (Radio 4, Mondays, repeating Tuesdays, producer, John Fawcett Wilson) unfolds in another field of present controversy: school. I am not at all sure that Peter Davison, as the young man who idealistically forsakes life in an oil company for the world of teaching isn't going to find the manifold intergalactic perils of Dr Who to have been a bit of a doddle by comparison.

The author, Jim Eldridge, is himself a teacher, so this is an insider's view of that stressful occupation which already conveys the mixture of indomitable hope with fathomless pessimism that seems to characterise the modern teacher's attitude. There are some sharp lines and situations, although I must say that last week's first episode also gave the impression of a school seen primarily from the staff room, the headmaster's office and the blessed haven of the local after-work. For much of it the pupils were little more than an unremitting row in the background. If this series is going to develop from a promising start, then we need more first hand encounters at what, in deference to Newspeak, I think I have to call the pupil-teacher interface.

The Drama Department of BBC Radio Scotland has just launched a spring season of plays. Some of these productions are likely to come onto the networks and one, the first, which I have been lucky enough to hear, needs to be noticed as a first play of exceptional promise. Ronald Frame's *Winter Journey* (March 19, director Patrick Rayner).

This is a truly painful account of a marriage seen by its hostage, the child of parents engaged in a cold war of a ferocity. A marvellous performance this by Annabelle Lanyon, but she was matched by Tim Pigott-Smith and Jane Asher who played Simon and Laura with a venom and anguish that made *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* look like a beginner's exercise. Which of course is greatly to the author's credit too.

David Wade

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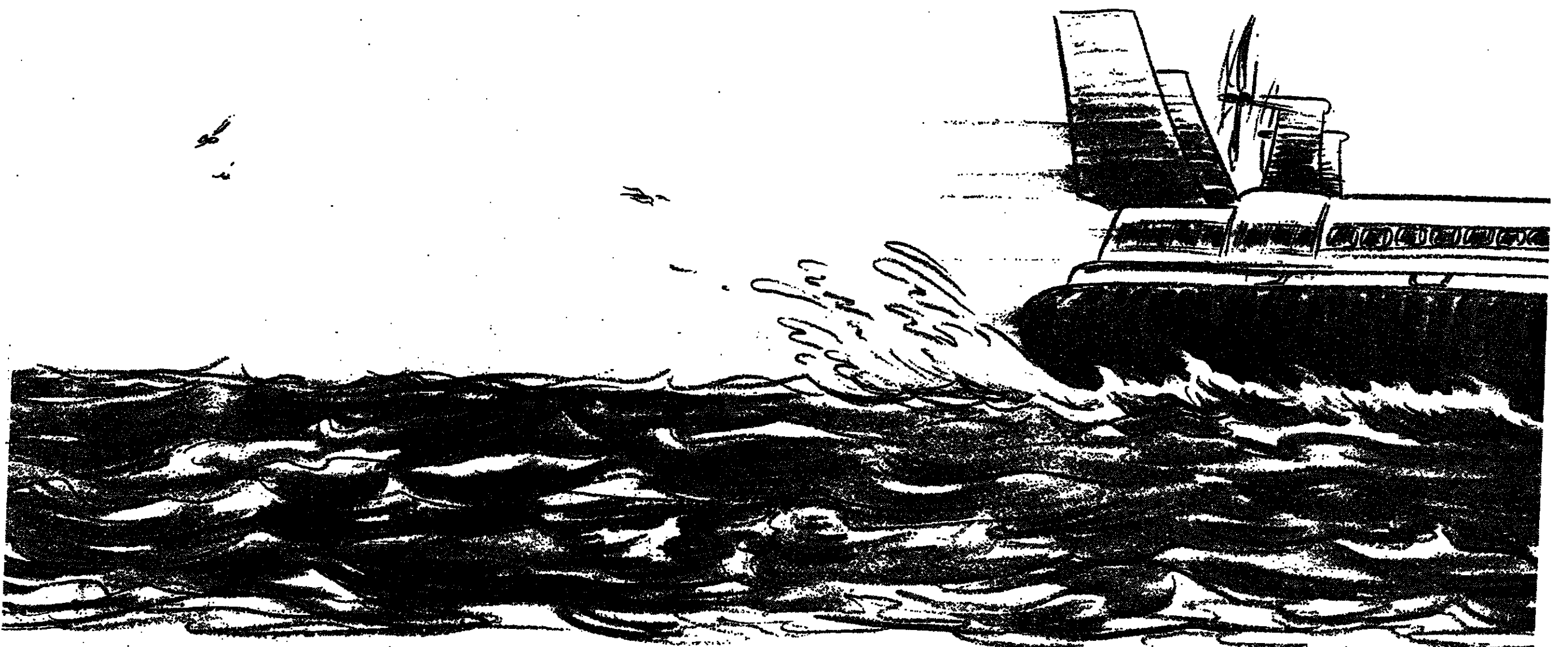
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SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

National interest

If you are looking for a horse to win the Grand National today look no further than West Tip. The odds won't be too lavish, but the horse has all the necessary credentials for a National winner - chief of which is utter improbability. The horse has no right to be alive, let alone racing. He was in collision with a lorry two years ago, and needed 76 stitches to close a wound as big as a football. To make the story even less probable he is ridden by a jockey having his first ride in the National, Richard Dunwoody, who has just turned 21. In Eyfield, Hampshire, the speculation is all about the name of the local pub. The pub, next door to Tony Balding's yard, was renamed Highland Wedding when Balding won the race on the eponymous horse in 1969. Balding's runner this year is the well-backed Lucky Vane, who got round the course last year despite saving several of the fences en route. If Balding does it again, locals expect the pub to adopt two names, one on either side of the sign. Meanwhile, Anglia Television were anxious to track down Arthur Freeman, who won the National in the 1950s on Mr What. They located Arthur Freeman in Suffolk, arranged an interview, and went to call. All was going well until talk turned to jockeyship. "I've never been on a horse in my life," said Arthur Freeman. "I used to be a coalman."

● Zola Budd was given a bonus of £5,000 for her bubbling trust fund after winning the World Cross Country championships, barefooted as ever, last weekend. The all-British wonder girl was given the cash by Brooks - the shoe company that sponsors her.

Oxford blue

The Renaissance man of rowing, Oxford chief coach Dan Topolsi, is not wholly happy about the delicate sensibilities of his publisher. He made this point clear when discussing his new book on the Oxford success story, with that well known sporting magazine, *Harper's*. "I've never been on a horse in my life," said Arthur Freeman. "I used to be a coalman."

Island games

The Napoleonic island of St Helena has just confirmed that it will take part in the inaugural Inter-Island Games, which will be held in July on the Isle of Man. There are 13 islands taking part: the Scandinavian islands of Aaland, Gotland, Hirta and Froya, also Malta, Guernsey, Jersey, Ireland, Orkney, Shetland, the Faroes and the Isle of Man. Capri may also send a team. The Falklands were invited, and indeed wanted to send a team to take part in the shooting. But they are too short of practice; their range was destroyed in the conflict. This will not be the first contest between the Isle of Man and St Helena. A Manxman, Mark Wilks, was governor of St Helena when Napoleon was there.

● One of the more unusual football injuries has been suffered by the Coventry forward, Cyrille Regis. This week he had an operation to clear a blood clot from an artery caused by a blow in the face while playing Sheffield Wednesday. It is not all that serious. It's not as if he's an Australian cricketer.

Goal mouth

Every Saturday for years Mario Maggi used to tell Nils Liedholm, the manager of Milan's football team, and former Roma manager, the following day's result. But Maggi has given it up after correctly predicting Milan's 1-0 home defeat by Sampdoria. The only time he has got a result wrong, he says, was in Joe Jordan's Italian days, when he predicted a win for Milan over Juventus, and Juventus won 3-2. Last May, he told Liedholm not to let Graziani take a penalty in a European Cup final against Liverpool. Liedholm rejected the advice: Graziani's penalty miss cost Roma the cup. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had a scoring blotch. Maggi made him an amulet, and Rummenigge immediately scored twice. But now Maggi, a former foreign legionnaire, is retiring. "Next year I don't want anything to do with football," he said.

● Tommy Gildert is setting out to beat the world record of 10,150 press-ups in five-and-a-half hours. The doughy machine operator already holds a few records: he has performed 13,000 press-ups in 15 hours, 1,000 one-arm press-ups in 35 minutes, and 269 left-arm press-ups in ten minutes.

Family line

Further to my recent remarks on women's rugby I am informed of a match played by Portora Royal School in Ireland, in 1885. The school's numbers had been badly hit by the departure of its headmaster (who took half the pupils with him) and a decision to take no more boarders. But the school still managed to get a XV out, with a three-quarter line comprising the acting headmaster's three sons and his daughter. The daughter survived, married and, perhaps wisely, emigrated to South Africa.

Still time to stop this tax on tapes

by Bill Johnstone

Governments do not like to be accused of duping the electorate. They like it even less if it looks as though they have been conned themselves. Unfortunately that is precisely what has happened. A proposal unveiled by the Government this month with little publicity will inflate the cost of home entertainment unless challenged. Its effect would be to make an unsuspecting public contribute millions of pounds to the entertainment industry.

Yielding to pressure from the music and film industries, the Government proposes to put a levy on blank cassettes used for domestic recording. The levy would inflate the retail price of audio cassettes by 10 per cent and video cassettes by 5 per cent within two years. The £10m a year raised by the levy would be channelled into the two industries.

The proposal can only be described as a cosmetic attempt to allay the fears of music and film producers, who for a decade have failed to find an effective way to stop illegal copying - known as tape piracy. Heavy penalties are now imposed on pirates but policing is difficult and only a few are caught. Britain has become a leading world centre of this trade.

However, the Government has confused two issues. Copying for private use is quite different from commercial tape piracy. Even the Government concedes that half the music recordings made at home derive from originals which the recorder owns or has borrowed from a friend, and are for use in a car or personal stereo set. There is no justification for making the consumer pay. The Government attempt to justify the tax in its Green Paper published this month is peppered with inconsistencies.

The problems arising from audio and video copying - possible lost sales and breaches of copyright - have been studied since 1977. A report that year from a committee chaired by Mr Justice Whitford favoured a levy on blank tapes as a compensation for lost sales. Four years later the Government rejected the idea of a levy and any need for compensation. The music and film industries have since argued that domestic tape-recording is siphoning off millions of pounds from their profits. Curiously, the Green Paper is still against a levy to compensate for lost sales - but is prepared to

impose one to reward copyright-holders.

The Government is overwhelmed by the magnitude and complexity of tape piracy. It is also aware that there are now 25 million audio cassette recorders and six million video recorders in use in Britain, and 50 million blank audio and 20 million video cassettes are sold each year. This is where the Government's confusion arises. The issue raised by piracy is breach of copyright; but domestic tape-recording is a matter of personal freedom. The recording technology of today allows music, radio or television to be recorded so the listener can enjoy it at his convenience. About 21 per cent of audio cassettes are used to record radio programmes and almost all blank video cassettes are used for "time-shifting" television - watching programmes at a later date.

In the case of BBC radio broadcasts, a licence fee is paid by the listener. The copyright-holder has already been rewarded by the licence fund, whether he be a playwright or pop musician. Millions of pounds in royalties are paid annually by the BBC to the music

industry for the use of records on the radio.

The music-based commercial radio stations also pay the record companies handsome royalties. That money comes from listeners, because it is they who contribute to commercial radio's advertising revenue every time they purchase goods. Parallel arguments apply to television. The video recorder is a device allowing the consumer to watch programmes that have already been paid for. Is the consumer to pay a tax to the programme-makers for the privilege?

And what of the personal copying of friends' records? Are we really expected to believe that the multi-million-pound record industry, which has frequent displays of affluence, is not benefiting financially from a pop-music audience whose interest in that music may be sustained by the odd instance of private copying? It is but the modern equivalent of swapping records, a custom that benefited the pop industry decades ago.

The proposed levy is unfair and the case for it unproved. If enough people object before the end of April, this proposal could be dropped. It is time for the consumer lobby to take effect.

Sarah Walden argues that conservation is killing our heritage

Rape of the Old Masters

"Do not let us talk then of restoration: the whole thing is a lie from beginning to end." Ruskin was speaking about churches, but he also fulminated in *The Times* about the treatment of paintings. The extent of restoration of pictures during our own century is unprecedented, both in quantity and in the extreme methods used. The full scale of the damage is only now beginning to emerge. Today, it is not only anxious aesthetes who are worried; people who just happen to like paintings sense that there is something wrong.

Britain and America are the main culprits, and most informed foreigners are appalled at the brisk, puritanical insensitivity of the Anglo-American approach. One Italian specialist asked wryly whether the British used sandpaper on their Old Masters, and a senior Russian restorer told me that some recently cleaned Impressionists in the US now looked as though they had been painted in toothpaste!

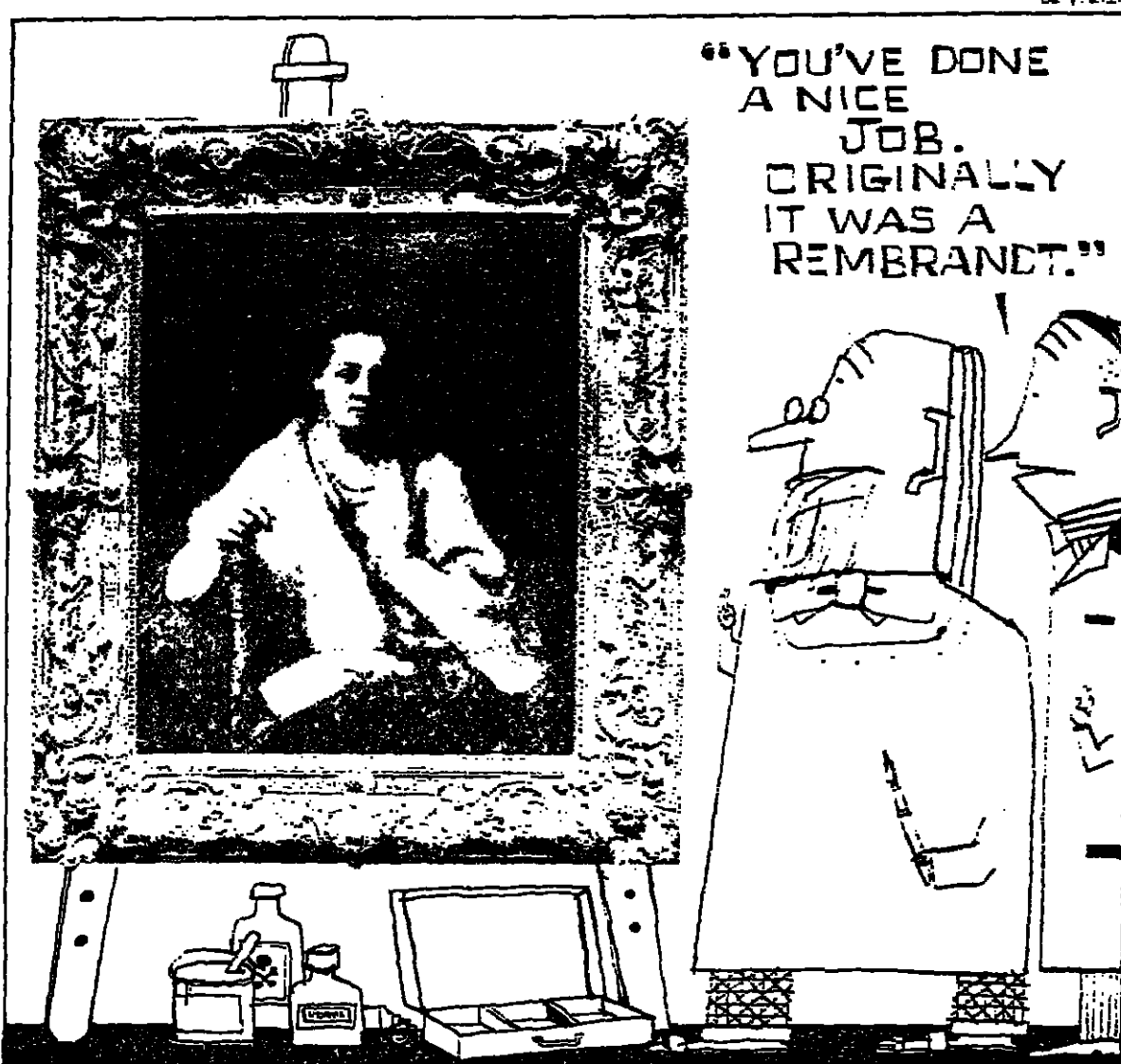
Yet many restorers deny that there is a problem at all, and debate is discouraged. There can be few fields where calls for prudence and restraint are so instinctively resisted. Restoration has always been a secretive profession, and now technology itself is used to deflect criticism. In 1961, when Sir Ernst Gombrich and other eminent figures questioned National Gallery orthodoxies, they were more or less told that art historians should not meddle with such things.

Today's debates are brief and spasmodic. Misconceptions still abound. People talk of "getting back to the original", but there is often no original to get back to: the colours themselves have changed over the centuries at different rates, and with them the whole tonal balance of the picture. Greens turn brown, halftones disappear and blues, white highlights and brilliant reds retain their impact. By removing every scrap of old varnish or traces of the artist's surfaces, and giving you that raw, flat, "modern" look.

Of course there were disasters in the past too. We have come a long way since an 18th century Frenchman suggested that the best way to clean Old Masters was "simply to pee on them". But today's excesses are far more systematic.

There are administrative pressures for action too. Conservation is an obvious "good", enhancing the prestige of a gallery and attracting government or private funds. When times are hard, a refurbished picture can be a substitute for a new one and draw the crowds.

There is some evidence of growing qualms: the Washington National Gallery stopped all work for a year after the catastrophic overcleaning of a Rembrandt, and there was spontaneous concern in Britain when the newly overhauled "Judgment of Solomon" was shown



Coca-Cola instead of a fine claret. Paint, glazes and varnishes often mingle inextricably in the ageing process. Insensitive overcleaning on today's technology simplifies these intricate surfaces, and gives you that raw, flat, "modern" look.

Obviously, many paintings could be improved by the right attentions, and some are painfully discoloured. But the risks of modern restoration styles are such that it would sometimes be better to leave well - or near well - alone.

There are sound financial reasons for prudence. As buyers come to distinguish more and more between natural ageing and artificial rejuvenation, the value of relatively untouched works will rise sharply against the dubious products of the laboratory. What would be the long-term value of a Shang bronze

burnished up on a lathe?

What is needed is a balanced and restrained approach, maximum historical awareness and respect for the personality of each painting. closer communication between restorers and art historians and, above all, a certain humility. The conservator's prime task is not to remove all traces of age and ageing, but to hold together the fragile unity of the painting, and to keep his peace with the ghost of the original artist.

The avoidance of extremes is crucial: a picture badly disfigured by dirt, damage or discoloured varnish enjoys only a residual aesthetic existence. But at least it can be rescued. The really conclusive case against the radical approach is that it has the stark consequence of closing options for the future. The incomparable finish of an Old Master painting - an intricate fusion of art and time - once gone, is gone forever.

The author is a picture restorer for the Louvre. The Ravished Image is published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson on April 11, £12.95.

man who can do business with Mr Gorbachov.

The other people tipped for the Kadar succession - the 42-year-old deputy premier Laszlo Marosy (who is being groomed to take over from the ailing premier, Gyorgy Lazar), the foreign policy specialist, Matyas Szuros, the ambitious editor of the party daily, Mr Janos Berecz - also seem to feel that they could handle a special relationship with Mr Gorbachov.

It will have to be a very special relationship indeed, for the Soviet Union needs only sneeze to destroy the impetus of Hungarian reform. Hungary is hamstringing with debt to the West. It can only keep its current account in balance because of relatively cheap energy and raw material supplies from the Soviet Union, and Soviet readiness to pay generously for food imports from Hungary.

If Mr Gorbachov falls out with Hungary he does not need to send in tanks, only to "renegotiate" the terms of trade with Budapest. The fear, in Hungary and elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, is that a Soviet leader committed to introducing economic reform in his own country is not necessarily going to support reform by his allies.

Until there are more definite signs of the future direction of the Kremlin, Kadar will be persuaded to stay in place. But not many are laughing at his jokes any more and the corridors of power in the party are filling up with lean and hungry men.

Roger Boyes

John O'Sullivan

If America had pulled the trigger

The shot that killed US army major Nicholson was not heard around the world. It was barely heard in Washington and quickly muffled there by comforting explanations. To employ Talleyrand's distinction, it was not an event, merely news.

But imagine this unimportant murder in reverse. Suppose that an unarmed Red Army officer, carrying out the minor espionage permitted under West Germany under the 1947 agreement, had been shot without warning by an American soldier and prevented from receiving first aid until he died an hour later.

It is easy to forecast the reactions. There would be anti-American riots. Of course, terrorists would probably plant a few bombs in American military installations in West Germany. The peace movement would be protesting. President Reagan would be blamed personally for the crime, it being explained by Mr John Pilger that his bellicose rhetoric led inevitably to this sort of outrage. Mr Gorbachov would demand the demilitarization of West Germany as a first step out of the crisis. And Mr Denis Healey would praise Gorbachov's judicious restraint, especially commendable in one so young.

Yet what has happened in reaction to the Soviet crime actually before us? Where are the riots, the bombs, the fierce denunciations? There has been only a resounding tinkle all round - Reagan being as determined a tinkler as anyone.

Western reactions to Soviet crimes are beginning to fall in a predictable pattern. The instantaneous response is to declare that the offence only goes to demonstrate the necessity for "peace". We may promulgate the general rule, indeed, that if any aggressive action by the Soviet Union fails to employ direct aggression when it might have done, as in Poland, that demonstrates we already have peace.

On this occasion Reagan perfectly captured the style. He confided that he was mad as hell inside about the major's murder. But he was not going to let his personal feelings interfere with government policy. The incident would not prevent a meeting with Gorbachov. "It would make me more anxious to go to one." It is excellent that Reagan should have made this cardinal point clear. Now Gorbachov knows that if he ever feels ignored by the Americans in future, all he has to do is shoot an American soldier to demonstrate the need for talks.

The next step is to try to share some of the blame with the Soviet

Union. No sooner had the editorial in *The New York Times* described the incident than it got down to scolding everyone in a fine ecumenical spirit: "The two superpowers owe each other, and the rest of the world, a better insurance policy against dumb, cold-blooded reactivity." The editorial went on to make clear that in a similar case last week a Soviet officer out of bounds in Bavaria had merely been detained and escorted back to Frankfurt. It also gave other details of how Soviet forces in East Germany have recently embarked on a policy of brutal harassment of western military attaches.

One wonders why the "two superpowers" had been invoked: it is the Soviet Union which owes everyone "a better insurance policy". It is probably no more than a sort of mental tic. In certain minds, the Soviet Union and the US are the Siamese twins of international politics. If one is present, so must the other. If one is guilty, the other must be a sort of accomplice. The culminating western reaction is to declare that we must not overreact. In practice this means that we must not react at all. And to ensure that this is so, we are usually offered only two possible reactions: "talking" and nuclear war. A specimen argument runs as follows: "Of course, we must talk. Surely you don't want nuclear war."

But there are surely wider choices. It is not necessary for Reagan to cancel the Geneva talks to show US disapproval and anger at Major Nicholson's murder. But he might cancel a scientific exchange, or call off a cultural programme, or send home a Soviet diplomat, or declare larger areas of Western Germany out of bounds to Soviet military personnel for a specified period, or several such measures.

Soviet journalists (an oxymoron rather like "Soviet elections") would doubtless rage to order against such provocations. But the Soviet Union is used to combining harsh aggression in one part of the world with the soft answer that turneth away wrath elsewhere. It would take the matter in its stride.

The West, for its part, would have demonstrated two important points. First, that although we are prepared to negotiate to joint advantage, we are not prepared to suffer crime or humiliation without protest. And secondly, in our old-fashioned, unscientific, bumbling way we believe that shooting people and leaving them to die unintended is wrong.

Philip Howard

Vanity, thy name is not peacock

Humans are vain, not peacocks. It is a typical example of what psychologists call projection, the attribution of one's own attitudes to others, answer by others that we consider the peacock the symbol of vanity and pride, and represent the poor bird leading all the other deadly sinners into hell. In my experience peacocks are thick, not vain. I have seen them pecking at their reflections in the hub-caps of motor cars, but that looked to me like bird-brained aggression towards something apparently moving, rather than jealousy of a rival. Their weird cry from the lower branches of Scotch firs in darkest Ayrshire sounds like a melancholy tom-cat, not a wail of pride. The only animals human enough to show signs of vanity are one or two cats I have known.

If it is an emblem of vanity you are looking for, it is an amusing paradox that you ought to start in the scribbling and arguing trades. I have been lobbied three times in the past year to write to Downing Street to solicit an honour for scribblers of my acquaintance.

You would be astonished at the numbers of otherwise rational and successful people who write to newspapers asking to have their birthdays listed in the Birthdays Today columns. The less-brazen ones get their spouses to write for them. A smaller number, usually actresses of a certain age, write asking to have their birthdays removed. Students of these matters note such fine distinctions as those papers that give the ages of the Royal Family on their birthdays, and those that delicately leave them out. The peacock is just a silly bird: it is the human animal that is as vain as a teardrop with two spouts.

I cannot find out when peacocks acquired their unfair reputation for vanity. In the ancient world they were famous for being Argus-eyed and for their association with Juno, who had more formidable vices than vanity. I should have thought. The peacock's flesh was supposed to be incorruptible and, accordingly, the peacock was adopted as an early Christian symbol of the resurrection. From quite early the peacock's feather has been considered unlucky. The superstitious will not have one in the house, or on the stage, for that matter. Can this go right back to an understandable reluctance to being spied on by the eyes of the all-seeing man, Argus?

The name Peacock first occurs as a human name in the Domesday Book. No record is left of it referring to the bird until 1377. It is a compound of the Old English words *pea* and *coc*. The *pea* comes from the Latin *pavo* and the Greek *taos* or *taon*, which are both probably echoes of some lost oriental name. Onomatopoeia may also have played a part in shaping the name. The Latin verb for making a noise for her demon-lover, or hack complaining that his piece has been

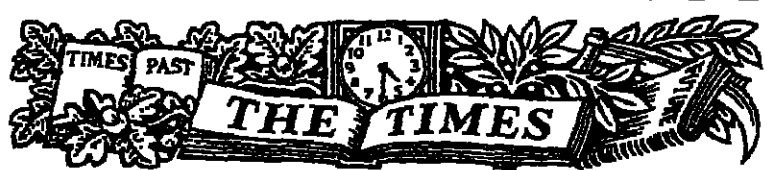
spiked, is *paupavare*. It is a good word and I wish that I had more occasion to use it. My guess is that the poor peacock was adopted as our symbol for vanity by the mediaeval bestiaries, those moralizing strip-cartoons, which told an improving tale and illustrated it with miniatures of appropriate birds and beasts. The bestiaries were derived from the *Physiologus*, the Naturalist, the collection of 50 fabulous anecdotes of a moralizing and symbolical kind, written in Greek towards the end of the 4th century AD.

I am still hunting for the first person to call the peacock vain. There may be a connection with the old fable of the jay, who dressed up in peacock's feathers and so made herself a laughing-stock. This is certainly the origin of the literary phrase the "peacock's feather", to describe some fine ornament cribbed from someone else and spatchcocked into one's own piece. I think we should give up being beastly to peacocks, not because the symbol is untrue, but because it is a cliché.



The best use for a peacock that I know is the one that it is said to have been put to by the ministers of George III. The old fellow was recovering from one of his bouts of "insanity", which manifested itself, as you can read in Fanny Burney, from speaking incessantly and very fast. They drilled him in reading the King's Speech, in which every sentence remarkably ended with the word "peacock". They explained that "peacock" was an excellent word for ending a sentence with, but that kings should not let their subjects hear it, but should whisper it sotto voce. He followed their instructions, and the resulting pause at the end of each sentence made his speech more bearable than such things usually are. It is a useful peacock trick for those of us who gabble out public speeches too fast out of glowering terror. But as an emblem for vanity, your journalist is a much better example than your peacock; not so good-looking, though.

Sullivan
ica had
e trigger



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JOB FOR THE RATES

Tomorrow at Chequers the Prime Minister convenes senior colleagues in emergency session, determined (so we are told) to "do something" about the opprobrious local tax that has dogged her career for a decade. But do what, and why, so hastily? For England and Wales the 1984 Rates Act with its powers of capping and controls is not yet a year old; the New Left in the town halls is in disarray. The ink is barely dry on the purportedly exhaustive survey of local government finance commissioned from ministers Baker and Waldegrave.

The note of urgency comes from the North: this week the flag of fiscal rebellion has been the lion rampant. But the cries audible from Scotland have been extraordinarily muddled. Financial extravagance by Labour controlled district councils such as Edinburgh city is one thing — the self-interested complaints about property revaluation quite another. Surely Mrs Thatcher does not want to give aid and comfort to a gang of party politicians frightened by fiscal efficiency. Her response to Sir Hector Monro and his friends should be curt. A property tax depends on its valuation base which like any tax base should be indexed. Scotland's Assessors are impartial: there is a mechanism for appeal against new valuations. Revaluation has no necessary consequence for the total tax burden or spending. Revaluation helps get some of the tax burden off the back of industry.

And Mrs Thatcher could indeed go on. Scotland has for too long had an overly generous fiscal deal within the United Kingdom arrangements. It is about time the beneficiaries of local services in Scotland felt the same kind of pinch as ratepayers in England and Wales — they have been cushioned against the chill winds for no reason other than the proportionately large subvention given Scottish councils by Edinburgh and the comparative success of Mr Younger in winning successive public expenditure rounds.

But there is a much wider point — which someone ought to make tomorrow. Taxation hurts. Taxation ought to hurt enough to make people conscious of their right to turn the tax levers out of office. Those tax levies should answer frequently and directly to voters. Tax should hurt as many voters as possible. Local authority rates are imperfect, but property tax can be a good base for paying for local services and rates could be made to hurt enough to make local government work better than it does.

Perhaps Mrs Thatcher's haste is justified — her government and its predecessors have spent countless hours amassing evidence about the operation of the rating system and the merits of its alternatives. And the balance of judgement, from the Layfield Committee through *Alternatives to Domestic Rates* to the Baker-Waldegrave inquiry, is clear: the imperfections of the rates as a tax paying for a large slice of

local administration are many but they are consistently outweighed by the flaws and complexities of the alternatives. The task is surely to ameliorate a system based on property rating: the task is to rescue accountability by re-establishing a sound financial nexus between voter and local elective politicians. The methods of reform are various. Among the good suggestions being canvassed is a national poundage figure for industrial and commercial (and agricultural — the case for the exclusion of farm property died long ago) property. A radical simplification of the rate support grant, cutting its amount and making it payable on a basis no more complex than that of head count: these are ways of putting pressure on households.

And if households feel pain? They move — rates can be useful in shaking down the property market. They pay their rates bill with a smile. Or they vote the villains out. Mrs Thatcher should tell Sir Hector and all those who complain about the impact of rates on households that the antidote is not some magical (and expensive) cushioning like Mr Younger's recent fillip to domestic rate relief in Scotland. It ought not to be heavy handed central interference. In a reformed rates system the response should be a free decision by the pained ratepayers (who usually include council tenants) to eject from the town hall the party hurting their pockets.

FULL CIRCLE IN LEBANON

Did Israeli troops deliberately or knowingly kill the two Lebanese journalists, working for CBS television, who died in the village of Kfar Melki on March 21? That very grave accusation, made by CBS on the day of the event, was withdrawn in Jerusalem on Tuesday by Mr Ernest Leiser, vice president of CBS, after he had seen the Israeli Prime Minister. Mr Simon Peres. Mr Leiser regretted he had not been able to visit the village (which is beyond Israel's present notional "front line") nor to interview the tank commander and gunner who fired the fatal shells, but he professed himself satisfied "that it was certainly not a deliberate attempt... to fire tank guns against our camera people."

In the nature of things — particularly in south Lebanon — the colleagues of the dead men are bound not to share Mr Leiser's certainty. A discrepancy remains unresolved between the Israeli claim to have established "beyond doubt" that the shells were fired from a distance of 2,500 metres and the evidence of the French eye witnesses who say the tank was only about 700 metres away, but it is not important, since even at 700 metres cameramen could easily have been mistaken for guerrillas with rocket launchers. The tank crew thus deserve the benefit of any remaining doubt. Either, as Mr Peres's spokesman put it, "when they fired they were convinced they were firing at armed people" (having mistaken the TV camera for a rocket launcher), or they had simply been ordered to clear a given area with shellfire and were not too worried who or what the shells landed on. As the Israeli Ambassador in France wrote to *Le Monde*, "in certain circumstances you shoot at anything that moves."

Among the things that were moving in that part of Lebanon on March 21, and will not move any more, were twenty other human beings besides the two CBS journalists, including a middle-aged woman and a 67 years old man. No-one has demanded an inquiry into those deaths. The killing of the two journalists may not have been part of a deliberate vendetta against the news media, but it certainly was part of a pattern of indiscriminate firing into populated areas, which has been an amply documented feature of Israeli behaviour in south Lebanon in recent months, and which inevitably kills large numbers of unarmed civilians.

The Israelis' excuse for this is that their soldiers are exposed to constant attack from enemies who are indistinguishable from civilians, and deliberately make themselves so. "We are getting out of Lebanon as fast as we can anyway," say the Israelis, in substance, "but if people persist in shooting us in the back as we go we are bound to turn round and hit back at them, and if other people get hit in the process it is not our fault. We have to protect our troops as best we can."

It is certainly not an enviable situation, and the fact that it is largely of Israel's making does not make it any more so, or any easier for Israel to deal with now. The desire of Israeli commanders and political leaders not to let attacks on their men go unpunished is understandable. Yet how can one justify a "punishment" which falls so heavily on the innocent as well as the guilty, and which is manifestly ineffective as a deterrent? If Israel had decided to occupy South Lebanon permanently she might perhaps succeed, given time, in crushing the resistance by such methods.

Perhaps, but if so, at terrible cost to herself, both material and moral — a cost which, to her credit, she has decided not to pay. But in the contest of withdrawal such massive retaliation makes no strategic sense.

Raids like the one of Kfar Melki and neighbouring villages achieve nothing except to keep hatred of Israel alive in territory from which Israel has officially withdrawn. They should surely be abandoned and, in areas where the withdrawal is still in progress, Israeli commanders should make a serious effort to restore discipline and self respect among their demoralised and jumpy troops.

Of course it would be much easier if an effective cease fire could be achieved with the Lebanese resistance while the withdrawal is completed. This may not be possible, but it would be worth trying for.

Since Israel's long term interest, after the withdrawal, is to create arrangements which help to make that frontier as secure as possible for the inhabitants of north Galilee, it must be worthwhile to try once more for the cooperation of the Lebanese, United Nations and militia men. The alternative, and most likely outcome of the "iron fist" approach is to guarantee that south Lebanon will become a centre of international Shiite terrorism, sworn to avenge the killings of Israel's withdrawal, both by shelling across the frontier and carrying out terrorism in those western countries who are held up as supporters of Israel. In those circumstances, Mr Rabin's threat of a scorched earth response is not likely to deter, nor, in the event, to destroy the terrorist bases, and Israel will truly have come full circle from the decision to invade Lebanon in 1982.

MOTTLED BLUE

Growing tired of always being in the losing boat, a Cambridge rowing Blue has taken a step which strikingly bears out his university's peculiar joint distinction for logic and defections. In the Boat Race next week, he will be rowing in the Oxford boat. In this instance there is no shame in the change of sides, and apparently no ill-will has been left behind, for Bruce Philip's move from Downing to Worcester has its own sufficient academic justification. But the move qualifies him to row for Oxford, after having rowed twice for Cambridge and once for Goldie in the past three years. He will be the first oarsman ever to have secured both a light and a dark Blue.

With all possible goodwill, it is difficult not to have misgivings. What kind of crisis of identity may not be induced by the experience of being successively chalk and cheese, oil and water, Montagu and Capulet, day and night. The risk of inner conflict seems high, and the precedents are troubling. King Edward VII, for instance, he is not recorded to have been much of an oarsman, and perhaps would have sunk the boat, but in his younger days he served time both at Oxford and at Cambridge, under the moral super-

vision of the vigilant Colonel Bruce, in the course of his father's rigorous programme of princely education. He turned out a great disappointment to his parents.

But the most alarming precedent is that of W. E. Midwinter, "the Bendigo Infam". He was not an oarsman but a cricketer, and his defection was not merely between universities, but between antipodes. He is the only man in the history of Test cricket ever to have played for England against Australia and vice versa. Furthermore, he switched sides not once, but twice. This still more impious mixture of opposites must have put an overwhelming strain upon his sense of identity, and it is hardly surprising that within four years of the end of his Test career he developed signs of violent insanity and had to be committed to Kew Asylum.

At this stage the true causes of this misfortune cannot be known. Conflicts induced by divided loyalties might have had something to do with it. So might the surrealistic and overbearing character of Dr W. G. Grace. Midwinter, a Gloucestershire man, is said to have belied his name in the 1870s by becoming one of the first to perfect the art

of ambling round the world at just the pace necessary to ensure that wherever he was it was always summer, and there was always a game of cricket to be played. He was picked for Australia first, and played for them until one morning in 1878. He was already in flannels, waiting to play for the Australians against Middlesex at Lords. Suddenly Grace rattled up in a cab, and after a short altercation bore Midwinter away to play in a county match at the Oval.

The Australians were understandably slow to forgive him, and he played no Test cricket for several years, until England saw its opportunity and selected him for the team touring Australia in 1881-82. But the following season he changed sides again. In 1886 Midwinter found himself batting for Australia with Grace as wicket-keeper (no doubt keeping up a running commentary in his high, irritating voice). Midwinter's bat touched a "lady-like lob", and the ball disappeared. But Grace rummaged in his beard with diabolical triumph, and eventually drew the ball from the tangled black mass: caught, with no hands. It was turncoat's luck, and enough to drive any sportsman to despair. We hope Mr Philip has better fortune on the tiddley.

Keeping violence off terraces

From the Executive Director of Luton Town FC

Sir, In Philip Goodhart's article on hooliganism at football (March 23) he makes three fundamental errors:

Firstly, in the USA stadiums take pride of place in the community. New stadiums replace old and are moved to more suitable sites if necessary: all paid for by the local authority.

Secondly, at US sports, there are no visiting fans: distances between cities prevent it. Three hundred miles is a local derby. Therefore there is no hostility between supporters. If there were no visiting fans at UK sports much of the violence would end.

Thirdly, the article makes the naive assumption that football can cure violence, which has its roots in the liberal society created in the late fifties. If that were true we could help the police in curbing the violence that grows daily in our lives.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SMITH, Executive Director,
Luton Town Football & Athletic Club Ltd.,
70-72 Kenilworth Road,
Luton,
Bedfordshire,
March 26.

Sharpeville shooting

From Mr L. Irvine Brown

Sir, Your third leader today (March 23) on South Africa calls for protest, not least for its condemnation.

The killing of 19 people may be a very dreadful thing, provided you take it out of context. Had it happened in Malabailand or Uganda it is very doubtful whether you would have wasted a paragraph on it. It is white South Africa which has to be got at, and for the one and only reason that it is white in a black continent.

Honest reporting — completely unknown on this subject — would see Sharpeville in relation to Cato Manor, where the police station was overrun by a mob and the policemen were butchered.

It was the growing indication that there was to be a repetition of this in Sharpeville a very short time later which led to the killings, but that part of the story, if it is known, is very carefully ignored.

Yours faithfully,
L. IRVINE-BROWN,
Stoneycroft,
4 Cherry Orchard,
Pershore,
Worcestershire,
March 23.

President Nyerere

From the Right Reverend Dr Trevor Huddleston, C.R.

Sir, For the third time in the past 12 months your leader (March 25), in assessing Third World problems, has attacked personally the leadership of President Nyerere. You wrote: Africa's more enlightened leaders, seeking food sufficient for their citizens, will have to repudiate the Bourbon-like attitudes last week of President Nyerere, Africa's most helped and least successful leader.

This is in strange contrast to the article by your Diplomatic Correspondent, of March 22, who wrote of his Mansion House speech: They clapped long and loud... when he told the City that Africa's debt burden was intolerable and that countries could not go on carrying it. Applause was even longer and louder at the Royal Commonwealth Society two days later when he accused the First World of using economic power like the gunboats of old, to exercise control over the Third World.

In these major speeches President Nyerere was speaking as the leader of the Third World countries of Africa in the same terms used by the Brandt commission and its successor document.

He went out of his way to express deep gratitude to Western governments for their response to famine relief in Africa, but stressed again and again that without development aid on a totally different basis from that offered by the International Monetary Fund famine disasters would continue and worsen.

It is deeply distressing that *The Times* should be both so ill-informed and so unjustly critical about the real issues of countries like Tanzania. It is even worse that *The Times* should single out a leader of such outstanding integrity and intelligence as President Nyerere for its condemnation.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
St James's Church,
197 Piccadilly, W1,
March 25.

Torture campaign

From Mr Peter Hodson

Sir, Last December the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Convention against torture. Those of us involved in campaigning against the worldwide use of torture may have wished for a Convention with more bite. Even so, this one must surely go down in the history of international law as a most significant step forward.

Amongst its provisions is the principle of compulsory universal jurisdiction over alleged torturers, which means that alleged torturers can be prosecuted in the country in which they are detained. It also removes the defence of "obedience" to superior orders.

The Convention was accepted without dissent and immediately opened for signature and ratification. Our own Government played its part in making sure it was adopted. However, signature and ratification are still required.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HODSON, Chairman,
Quaker Abolition of Torture Group,
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers),
44 Coniston Gardens,
Wembley,
Middlesex,
March 16.

Doubts about aspects of Warnock way

From Ms Isabel Shepherson

Sir, Lady Warnock, in the Dimpleby lecture, seemed to be sure that large numbers of parents were worried that the 11EA, and the teachers it employs, were "indoctrinating" their children with political ideas of the teachers' own.

Even if there are teachers who do not protect their pupils from their own influence, it would be difficult, especially in London and especially in a comprehensive school, for any stance on a particular issue to go unchallenged.

When your father has been the victim of political oppression and you and your mother have had to seek refuge in England, there is little distinction in your mind between public and private morality. When you are a Irish child, sit next to, and are friends with, a child who lives at the barracks down the road where troops who have seen service in Northern Ireland are stationed, you do not find the Irish question "remote".

A teacher who faces, in the same class, the daughter of the local National Front candidate and the son of a known anti-Nazi league supporter, is not going to find it easy to "indocctrinate" either of them.

Children do not live in a political vacuum until, and only when, they are at school.

When I was the head of a comprehensive school in London I used to listen to and read the news of the day with the certain knowledge that we had in the school pupils who were connected with all of it. We had the children of Turkish and Greek Cypriots, Jews, Arabs, West Indians (from all islands of the West Indies group), Pakistanis, police officers, law-breakers, Christians, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, employers, employed and unemployed.

The possibility of unrest and conflict was always with us, but it was the attitude and behaviour of the pupils which prevented it from becoming a reality and which, in fact, allowed the mixture of backgrounds and beliefs to be something in which to glory and upon which to build a community whose members were able to live with others' views and convictions while holding their own with steadfastness and dignity.

Yours faithfully,
ISOBEL SHEPHERDSON,
The Swallows,
Driffield, North Humberside,
March 23.

From Mrs Phyllis M. C. Taylor

Sir, Baroness Warnock's worries, expressed in her Dimpleby lecture, about the teaching force confusing themselves with social workers, perhaps indicate her isolation from the realities of the school today, where teachers understand that their "failures" lie with socio-economic groups 4 and 5.

Pastoral care systems and counsellors are not there to excuse child but to build in support systems in an attempt to break down those

barriers which often prevent the "deprived" child from maximising his education in the way she described.

So often parental responses, simplified in Lady Warnock's description to the "pushers" and the "pullers", are conditioned by the social and economic conditions in which the parents find themselves. For example, the single-parent family, beset by social and economic difficulties, finds it hard to involve itself in educational processes.

With that optimism described so aptly by Lady Warnock, the teacher tries to compensate for the inadequacies of the social system, but largely only in educational processes within the school context.

I was surprised to find Lady Warnock stereotyping the "political" teacher. If, as she suggests, we are preparing children for life, we are preparing them for the political dimension — thinking, questioning and problem-solving human beings. In a democratic society the teachers should teach political skills of analysis and action within a democratic context.

Does Lady Warnock realise that the erosion of resources in colleges and schools of education is now making it impossible for our lecturers to teach and work in schools (as many have been doing) as well as to do research and train our teachers in cognitive areas?

As a corollary to teacher training in higher education, the teacher-tutor issue sounds good, but I would like to see more about the centres of excellence. Parents will flock to send their children to those schools with these excellent highly paid teachers, and the other schools will be seen as second-rate and second-class.

The medical model is a good one for initial training, post-graduate and post-experience training. Do we as a nation value our teachers as we value our doctors?

Yours faithfully,
PHYLLIS M. TAYLOR,
White Horses,
High Road,
Great Dunmow, Essex,
March 22.

A serious reverse

From Mr John Earl

Sir, As the proud owner of a pre-war No 4 Meccano set, I feel bound, to comment on the illustration on page 14 of today's (March 28) issue. It accompanies the article on unemployment, in which I must confess a personal interest.

The bicycle in the drawing embodies a most unusual concept: that only by back-pedalling can one hope to make progress. I imagine Mr Tebbi would not be amused.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EARL,
Abney Cottage,
Heddon Road,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire,
March 28.

Purifying exhaust

From Mr F. John Smith

Sir, Your leader today (March 22) once again perpetrates the error of suggesting that "lean-burn" engines are the alternative to catalytic converters as a means of controlling noxious emissions from motor vehicles. The environment ministers of the European Community know better. In order to achieve European equivalence with US standards of air quality it will be necessary on medium-sized cars (1.4 litres to 2 litres) to use either three-way catalytic converters or lean-burn engines plus oxidation catalysts.

Three-way catalysts abate greater quantities of carbon monoxide, unburnt hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen. Lean-burn engines are expected eventually to use rather less fuel than conventional engines, but they will need oxidation catalysts to deal with unburnt hydrocarbons, which they are inherently unable to remove to a degree acceptable elsewhere in the world (USA, Japan, Australia, etc).

Your report on an earlier page in the same issue suggested that the catalyst has an annual maintenance cost of about £90 and a short useful life, that it needs to be replaced every four years and "breaks down if it is not run on lead-free petrol or is overheated by fast driving, and will only function efficiently in fuel injection engines". That is mostly untrue.

Catalysts are designed to last for the life of a car, so there is no annual maintenance cost and no regular replacement. Certainly they need unleaded petrol, but that is coming anyway. Our test last year of a VW Scirocco, driven for 50,000 miles at an average speed of 107 mph, demonstrated that fast driving does not overheat catalysts. Most American and Japanese cars do not use fuel injection, but their catalysts function perfectly efficiently.

The largest autocatalyst supplier to the world's motor industry is British. My company has been making both three-way and oxidation catalysts by the million for over 10 years and we welcome the political decision by the ministers. Yours faithfully,
F. JOHN SMITH,
Commercial Development Manager,
Autocatalysts Division,
Johnson Matthey Chemicals Ltd.,
Orchard Road,
Royston, Hertfordshire.

Religion in Europe

From Sir John Lawrence

Sir, I write, as President of Keston College, to make two comments on Clifford Longley's helpful article (March 25) about the way in which the World Council of Churches and the British Council of Churches are treating evidence about the state of religion in Eastern Europe.

It is not the case that Keston has been undergoing a gradual change of emphasis from a concern for the individual rights of believers to collective church rights. The two are interconnected and both are important. Also it is not the case that only now have we Roman Catholic patronage. We have always had Catholic patronage as well as Anglican, Free Church, Church of Scotland, Eastern Orthodox and Jewish patronage.

Beauty of Bach

From Mr Charles Abdy

Sir, In your excellent leading article, "Johann Sebastian Bach" (March 21), you refer to "all that unparalleled and encyclopaedic output... so much of which has been tragically lost to posterity". A work that to all intents and purposes seems to come under that heading is his unique "Quodlibet". May I make a plea that this work is included in some of this year's celebratory programmes. The BBC had copies in the 1930s (and still hopefully have) in their library.

The Quodlibet is written for four voices (S.A.T.B.) over a figured continuo possibly for a "bachelor party" on the eve of his own wedding in 1707, but this is disputed by C. Sandford Terry in a fascinat-

ing article in the January, 1933, number of *Music and Letters* (vol XIV, no 1), which gives a full account of the work.

In the space of a short letter it would be impossible to do justice to a description of the Quodlibet, a work of 272 bars originally set out on three folios folded and sewn to form 12 pages. The music rarely moves in four-part vocal harmony; the voices in turn take up the strands of melody — melody of the most unfeigned simplicity. The music is undoubtedly Bach's. Unique is the true description.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES ABDY,
57b The Close,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
March 22.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 30 1871
The Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences was a concept of the Prince Consort. The building was designed by two officers of the Royal Engineers — Captain Francis Fowke and Major-General H. Y. D. Scott. The cost of £200,000 was defrayed by selling the boxes (a 10-seat box originally £1,000 was up for sale at £20,000 in 1984). The hall's first which drew comment on its early appearance has been in permanent residence ever since.

THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The "Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences" was formally opened by the Queen yesterday. A bitter north-west wind and a lowering sky would have seriously marred the effect of an outdoor spectacle. March, which came in like a lamb, was going out in very unlamlike fashion. Still there was an out-door spectacle, for thousands of people filled the hall from the Royal Palace, along which the Royal cortege was to pass, and the northern entrance to the Hall, opposite the Albert Memorial, was especially thronged by people anxious to see the Royal visitors, and indifferent to weather. Fortunately, though there were sudden clouds, no rain fell, and if loyal subjects did not mind being chilled to the bone, they would have at least a passing glimpse of gay dress, warm enough for last week, not for this — of fine equipages, a plumed escort, much scarlet and gold, distinguished personages whom it was difficult to distinguish, and the Royal Lady Princess and Princesses whom photography has made it impossible not to distinguish...

Advancing towards the Queen, who sat with her back to the orchestra, and flanking the rest of the audience, the Prince of Wales read with full voice and admirable emphasis the following address:

"May I please your Majesty... As President of the Provisional Committee of the Royal Albert Hall of Arts and Sciences, it is my high privilege and gratification to report to your Majesty the successful completion of this Hall..."

The address was slowly and distinctly read by His Royal Highness, but the reading was somewhat marred by an echo which seemed to be suddenly awake from the organ or picture gallery, and repeated the words with a mocking emphasis which at times was almost unbearable. The Queen, who had listened to the address with the utmost interest and attention, took from the Home Secretary a written reply. And, speaking to the Prince of Wales in a voice hardly audible to the audience, she said: "In handing you this answer, I wish to express my great admiration of this beautiful Hall, and my earnest wishes for its complete success..."

Echo was as distressingly persistent as the wind, and it was the last word during the prayer as during the address; and the explanation is the same, for the Bishop [of London] threw his voice in the same direction as the Prince..."

That a great deal remains yet to be done must be admitted on all sides, even by the promoters themselves; nor would anyone versed in such matters be persuaded willingly to give his authority to the observation that, whatever experiments may be devised, and whatever improvements may be made, the Royal Albert Hall can at any time be made generally serviceable for musical performances other than on the very largest scale — such, for example, as those which on special occasions are held in the great central transept of the Crystal Palace. Now, however, that the conditions have been in some degree fulfilled to which reference was made in a notice of the important feature of which shall be the "Wandering Minstrels"; now that we have carpeting, stuffed chairs, hangings etc., together with a gigantic calico or awning, or (velarium), and that the dome of the hall is an acoustic property, vastly improved. Many parts of the performance indeed, were heard to singular advantage. That the higher we ascend in the building, the better we hear the sound is just as true now, as before; but that, by means of experimental ingenuity, even the arena itself may ultimately be rendered amenable to the purpose of music — if only the music selected be of a broad and simple character, like many of the choruses of Handel, where the simple, melodic outline, sharply defined, irrespective of light and shade, and without consideration of petty details, is more likely to command attention and create a sympathy may, we think, be taken for granted...

If it is the intention of those who rule the fortunes of the Royal Albert Hall to carry out a scheme once announced, and which shall be an annual series of concerts — on the plan, for example, of the six performances announced this year by the Society of Arts — the music chosen upon all occasions should be of a character which lends itself to the peculiar nature of the building, and will, therefore, be certain of creating the desired impression. Orchestral compositions like the symphonies of Beethoven and Mendelssohn will hardly answer, inasmuch as the elaborate details upon which they depend so much must inevitably in a great measure be lost. Happily there exist choruses of genuine masters, which may be advantageously brought into request; and these, at any rate for a time, would most fairly try the capabilities of Albert Hall.

Conditioned reflex
From Mrs Elizabeth Walsh
Sir, Would that I were merely polite and said thank you only to answering, ticket and other machines.
The ultimate in my own self-abasement is saying "sorry" when elbowing at the bus stop or when someone treads on my toe.
Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH WALSH,
52 White Lion Road,
Aberham,
Buckinghamshire,
March 25.

From Mrs Rosemary Sturup
Sir, I once apologized to my own elbow at the bus stop or when someone treads on my toe.
Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY STURUP,
4 Woodfield Drive,
Sandisplatt Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire,
March 26.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Relief as JMB indemnity package is wrapped up

After months of sometimes tortuous discussions which have doubtless helped to line the pockets of the legal firms involved, the £150 million package of indemnities to cover losses at Johnson Matthey Bankers was finally wrapped up and signed yesterday.

The package, split fifty-fifty between the public and private sector, involves the Bank of England indemnifying JMB to the tune of £150 million in respect of losses above the £170 million capital available. The 23 banks and bullion dealers from the private sector in turn counter-indemnify the Bank of England up to £75 million.

Still to be revealed, though, is the full extent of the losses at JMB, which was rescued from near-collapse by the Bank of England six months ago. The indemnities broadly cover JMB's loan book of about £450 million as at September 30, 1984, the day or rather night it was rescued. Price Waterhouse has completed an examination of the loan book and made recommendations to JMB's board but the board has still to come to a decision on the level of provisions needed.

The official line is that the losses should not exceed £250 million which would involve £80 million of the £150 million of indemnities being called. Allowing for official caution, the final figure may well end up in the £200 million to £230 million area; however provisioning for bad debts is an inexact science, requiring subjective, judgemental decisions.

It would scarcely be apt to say that anybody is happy with the indemnity deal except in the sense that there is relief it had finally been signed. The agreement, as it now stands, meets a number of the objections raised during negotiations by the private sector.

Having insisted initially that the Bank of England matched the private sector contribution (the Bank of England originally proposed putting up only £10 million itself), the City banks and gold dealers have also ended up with an independent accountant, Ernst & Whinney, who will certify all calls on the indemnities. Ernst & Whinney will have to agree that each loan in question qualifies under the indemnities and that the level of provision against it is reasonable.

To provide time for Ernst & Whinney to fulfil this role, and also to allow JMB's accounts to reflect the indemnity arrangement JMB's year-end is being shifted from March 31 to June 30. However the first call on the indemnities - they will be called quarterly under a complex procedure - may become clear within a month or so.

As to the loans which could qualify under the indemnity package, there are several hundred and one banker observed yesterday: "None of the names are ones I'd recognise".

Government Broker beguiles market

The Government Broker's passion for recoco funding instruments ran strong yesterday, when he opted for £500 million of the second most obscure stock in the market. Conversion 9½ per cent 2004. Until yesterday, £160,000 of the stock was in issue, and jobbers were quoting a four point spread between buying and selling prices. The other offering, a £250 million slice Exchange 10½ per cent 1997, tended to be dismissed as not significant.

Do yesterday's events mark a decisive change of emphasis in the conduct of the Bank of England's gilt-edged sales ("funding") programme. Since the New Year, the Government Broker has issued four slices ("tranches" or "tranches") of Conversion stocks, starting with £100 million of Conversion 10½ per cent 1999. He followed this up with £200 million of Conversion 10 per cent 2002 and a £500 million of Conversion 9½ per cent 2001. The jump from £100 million to £500 million issues means that the drive is accelerating. The consistent fall in the nominal interest rate ("coupon"), with its

implied emphasis on capital values, may possibly point towards a new found concern about value for money on the authorities' part.

Most of the Conversion stocks in issue have their meagre existence because of investors' failure to exercise their conversion options during the last gills bull market.

Whatever the strategic nature of the latest issues, tactical considerations may also have had a part. "Will the money supply figures for the March banking month be poor?" Is the question such thoughts provoke. Projections about the figures have been revised upwards sharply in the last few days, and the consensus is a growth of perhaps 1 per cent in EM3.

If this figure materializes, then the authorities may be faced with a dilemma. Currency forecasters see the dollar weakening sharply after Easter, around the publication date for the money supply figures. Poor monetary data, and a weaker dollar, would combine to push sterling even higher, as fears about higher British interest rates to check monetary growth revived.

This is hardly an idle fantasy. Yesterday, National Savings celebrated reaching its marketing target of £3 billion for 1984/85 by announcing increases in most of its investment accounts of half a percentage point.

If sterling explodes again, the Government Broker may need to unearth even more obscure funding instruments to beguile the market. How about Treasury 2½ per cent 1086-2016, issued in 1947 to pay for the takeover of coal royalties? Just £78 million is in issue, and the authorities would have no problems with existing holders: the bank of England at present holds all the stock.

Societies undermine their credibility

The debacle in Leeds on Monday when the Leeds Permanent and the Leeds & Holbeck called off their planned merger is further evidence that the pace of change in the building society industry is likely to be considerably slower than was only recently expected. This was the second merger to fail this year and illustrates how ill-prepared many societies still are to undertake big changes.

The Chief Register of Friendly Societies seems to have exerted new pressure. Both Leeds societies were defeated by organizational problems: neither managed to notify all its members of the merger plans. Leeds Permanent, which has more than 2.75 million investors, clearly had significant problems in keeping track of members' changes of address of account. Yet the ability to do this is basic to a building society's business. The failure to overcome such problems does not bode well for their ability to handle further changes, particularly when new legislation allows the societies to widen the scope of their operations, a point the Governor of the Bank of England took up at the Finance Houses Association dinner.

In the event, both societies decided that the four or five months' delay and the extra cost of several hundred thousand pounds to repeat the process correctly was too high a price to pay. Yet, 95 per cent of Leeds Permanent members and 83 per cent of Leeds & Holbeck members voted in favour of the merger.

Both Societies fell back on the same excuse given by the Coventry and Heart of England when their merger fell through last month. Ironically, this was that the merger process was absorbing too much of their managers' attention at a time when the industry was developing and changing.

All eyes must now be on the Leicester and Alliance. Their merger - if it is consummated - will be the biggest between societies of roughly equal size. It has already suffered one delay. If this too were called off, the credibility of building society managers would be seriously dented.

Japanese trade war feared as Congress seeks quotas

By Bailey Morris and David Smith

The White House moved quickly yesterday to quell rising congressional tension over the US trade fight with Japan, but officials on Capitol Hill said the hardline stance in Tokyo had resulted in a flood of protectionist legislation to block Japanese imports.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, reiterated the Administration's strong opposition to protectionist measures in a statement opposing an anti-Japanese resolution passed on Thursday by the Senate Finance Committee urging President Reagan to take retaliatory trade action.

"We continue to work on the negotiating front but we have made out views known to the Japanese in the strongest terms," Mr Speakes said.

Congressional leaders, however, noting the record trade deficit with Japan which more

than doubled last year to \$37 billion (£30 billion), said the protectionist tide in both houses of Congress would be difficult to stem.

Senator Robert Packwood, chairman of the finance committee, said: "Congress has run out of patience. The Japanese have dangled and stalled and lied to us."

The non-binding resolution passed by the committee condemns Japan for unfair trade practices and recommends retaliatory quotas and tariffs which would be the toughest action since the 1930s.

The recent decision by the Japanese Government to increase its car exports to the United States by more than 25 per cent over the next year after the removal in Washington of restrictive quotas has angered both Congress and the Administration.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has ordered officials to complete plans for opening up the Japanese market to imports, before a meeting of western ministers on April 11, according to government sources in Tokyo.

The sources said Mr Nakasone wanted the measures prepared before the two-day Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) meeting in Paris, as he feared Japan would face criticism there of its barriers to imports.

As the trade battle continued in Washington, the foreign exchanges continued to view prospects for the US economy with concern.

A 0.7 per cent rise in the US index of leading indicators last month provided the dollar with a short-lived boost yesterday.

However, by the end of the day the dollar was again looking weak.

The Commerce Department announced a seasonally adjusted rise of 0.7 per cent in the leading indicators.

The dollar moved up on the leading indicators, and news of a 6.2 per cent rise in single family home sales in February, but was later marked down on continued fears over the health of the US banking system and the view that the leading indicators did not allow worries about a sharp economic slowdown.

The pound gained 65 points against the dollar, to close at \$1.2355 in London. In early morning trading it had moved briefly above \$1.25.

The dollar fell more than three pence to DM3.0875 in London, slipping further to DM3.0725 in New York later.

Tootal offer raised to £128m

By Alison Eadie

The Australian textile group Entrad has raised its bid for Tootal, the British textile company, to £128.5 million from £124 million and declared its increased offer final.

Tootal's chairman, Mr Alan Wagstaff, took little time to reject the higher offer, calling it totally inadequate in the light of recent results and forecasts.

The offer is 72½ p cash, from 70p, and a guarantee that Tootal shareholders will be allowed to retain the second interim dividend of 2.67p gross proposed by Tootal for the year ending January 31, 1985. Tootal shares fell 3p to 73p.

On Wednesday Tootal forecast taxable profits of not less than £27 million this year, a rise



Alan Wagstaff: Entrad bid "totally inadequate".

of 18.2 per cent, and a total dividend of 4p, a rise of 29 per cent. Entrad countered yesterday

by questioning how reliable a forecast could be at such an early stage in the year, especially in the light of exchange rate volatility.

Entrad believes Tootal's profits will come out at £25 million, giving an exit price-earnings ratio close to 10, a considerable premium to the prospective P/E ratios of comparable British textile companies.

Entrad also questioned Tootal's dividend forecast so far. Tootal is confident it can meet its forecasts and expects substantial cash flow, which will allow a capital spending programme of £25 million this year with no significant increase in gearing.

The final closing date is April 18.

Jardine to pull out of shipowning

Hong Kong (Reuters) - Jardine Matheson Holdings, which made large losses on its shipping assets last year, plans to withdraw from shipowning.

Mr Simon Kewick, the chairman, told a news conference here that the move would be over three years and would also affect vessels related to the offshore oil service business.

The company made further provisions of HK\$554 million (£38.5 million) last year after setting provisions of HK\$195 million in 1983. That equals the gross assets value of the entire fleet.

Jardine reported a net loss of HK\$918 million in 1984, including extraordinary losses of HK\$998 million. That compared with profits of HK\$351 million, including extraordinary gains of HK\$212 million the previous year.

Mr Kewick attributed the huge writedowns to recession in the shipping market. "It is capital intensive and we can foresee no early end to conditions of oversupply," he said.

The company now owns 20 ships against a peak of 35 in the early 1980s. Eight of them are in the spot market and the others are on long-term charters.

Jardine reported exchange translation losses of HK\$125 million for overseas assets and liabilities, reflecting the Hong Kong dollar's appreciation against sterling, the Australian dollar and the yen in 1984.

Mr Kewick said Jardine's interest in the Middle East, the Jardine Offshore Group, had suffered from economic difficulties in the region.

The group also made a provision of about HK\$50 million against investment in a property development in Australia, he added.

He ruled out the possibility of a rights issue, a move that some analysts here had speculated on. "The organic growth in some of our operations will provide the necessary working capital," he said.

Jardine Matheson would consider selling its "unproductive and non-essential investments" as part of a strategy to streamline the company, and would make any substantial investments outside its present businesses.

Matthew Brown rejects 'inadequate' S&N bid

By Cliff Feltham

Matthew Brown, the Lancashire brewers, yesterday rejected Scottish & Newcastle Breweries' increased takeover bid worth about £100 million.

Matthew Brown called the terms "totally inadequate" and urged shareholders to sit tight. In the stock market Scottish & Newcastle shares firmed 3p to 129p to put a value of £42p on its bid. Matthew Brown kept just out of its reach with a 3p rise to 443p.

Scottish & Newcastle had raided the market the day before to lift its stake from 4.9 per cent to 12.7 per cent with a sizeable chunk of shares thought to have been sold by British Rail Pension Fund. Last night Mr Alick Rankin, the chairman of Scottish & Newcastle, denied he was disappointed at failing to reach 15 per cent. He said: "We were not poised to take our holding to 15 per cent as the other side was suggesting. We knew shares were available at a certain price and thought it worth acquiring them even if it meant raising our overall bid."

He remained unhappy about the role of Whitbread Investment Trust, which has lifted its shareholding in Matthew Brown to nearly 9 per cent, in what is viewed as a blocking move. Mr Rankin said: "They have shareholdings in 12 regional companies and try to influence the whole industry which raises various issues."

Euroferries sells UK properties

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

Stockley, the property company, has bought the British property portfolio of Townsend Thoresen, part of the European Ferries shipping group.

Neither side would comment on the deal but it is believed that Stockley paid about £60 million for Townsend's offices and industrial properties in London.

Two prime office buildings are included - the recently-completed Sovereign House in Victoria, with 73,000 sq ft of high quality space, and the 31,000 sq ft Fenimore House in the City.

It is believed that the US property and land holdings of European Ferries are not included in the sale. European Ferries also owns a site next to London Bridge in the City but this too appears to have been excluded from the portfolio.

The Townsend Thoresen portfolio has been on the market for a while and its sale leaves little property development activity within European Ferries.

The company has undertaken few new developments in Britain for the last two or three years.

An official statement about the sale could be forthcoming next week but the company was not available for comment last night.

Stockley was set up in November 1983 by Mr Stuart Lipton after he left Greycoat Estates, with Mr Jacob Rothschild and Mr Elliott Bernard.

IN BRIEF

GEC back for more

General Electric Company was in the market buying its own shares again yesterday. Scrimgeour Kemp-Gee, the stockbroker, bought 3 million shares at 187p on behalf of the company.

This month GEC bought 11 million shares at 197p and in December it bought 40.37 million at 228½p, bringing its total spending on its own shares to £119.3 million. GEC has shareholder approval to buy up to 250 million of its own shares to try to improve its earnings per share. The share price dropped 2p to 186p yesterday.

GEC is one of Britain's largest industrial groups with a turnover of more than £5 billion and cash reserves of about £1.6 billion.

Ibstock soars

Ibstock Johnson raised taxable profits by 87 per cent to £12.4 million last year on turnover 26 per cent higher. The total dividend is being raised 45.5 per cent to 8p and a one-for-one scrip declared.

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Hyatt International, the US hotel chain, plans to build a £30 million, 350-room hotel in Birmingham in conjunction with a £106.5 million convention centre Birmingham City Council hopes to build.

Boots chief

Mr Robert Gunn, 59, vice-chairman and chief executive of Boots takes over as chairman on Monday. He succeeds Dr Peter Main, who is retiring.

Store site sold

Bourne & Hollingsworth, the former department store in London's Oxford Street which closed in August 1983, has been sold by Equitable Life and Scottish Amicable to the shopping developer, Gleagat Group, for about £13 million. The two institutions bought the store from Raybeck.

Toronto spree

Hammer Property and Investment Trust is to spend £3.3 million (£13.94 million) refurbishing a Toronto shopping centre that it acquired with its £47 million takeover of the Mascan Corporation.

The Finance Bill will be published on April 16, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Correction

Sir Edward du Cann, chairman of Lomtho, was incorrectly called Mr Edward du Cann in yesterday's edition.

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Crisis shuts Bombay exchange

Bombay (Reuters) - The finance ministry yesterday halted trading for 24 hours at India's biggest stock exchange to head off a payments crisis set off by a massive speculative buying spree.

Mr M R Mayya, the executive director of the Bombay Stock Exchange, told newsmen that the Government wanted to avert a crisis in which speculators might fail to pay for their shares.

"Our prime concern is to protect genuine investors," he said. Mr Mayya said the exchange would work for one hour a day from Monday against the usual three hours. The curbs would continue until the situation returned to normal.

The curbs included a ban imposed early this week prohibiting trading on seven forward shares.

Mr Mayya said that attractive investment concessions in India's budget this month set off a buying spree and resulted in sharp rises in share prices.

The exchange accounts for more than 60 per cent of an annual turnover of about Rupees 20 billion (1.36 billion) at India's 14 stock exchanges.

Greenham to join market

Scott Greenham Group, one of the leading specialist lifting contractors and crane hirers in Britain is coming to the stock market with a price tag of £22 million.

A total of 7.4 million shares - 37 per cent of the business - are being offered for sale at a price of 110p. The directors are forecasting a pretax profit of not

less than £2 million in the present year, compared with £1.4 million on turnover of £12.8 million.

Scott Greenham says that it is looking for acquisitions to strengthen its business. Samuel Montagu is arranging the flotation and the broker is James Capel. Application lists open next Thursday.

MARKET SUMMARY		
STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	CURRENCIES
FT Ind Ord 984.3 (-13.8)	RISES:	London:
FT-A All Share n/a	Arncliffe Holdings 40p +6p	£: \$1.2355 (+0.0065)
FT Govt Securities 81.2 (+0.11)	Oceanics Group 140p +20p	£: DM 3.0875 (-0.022)
FT-SE 100 1277.6 (-10.1)	Home Counties Nwsp 148p +20p	£: Sfr 3.2154 (-0.0356)
Burgins 25.513	Wade Poteries 138p +17p	£: FF 11.6321 (-0.0864)
Dataseam USM 112.88 (-0.28)	Pressmax Holdings 111p +10p	£: Yen 310.05 (-0.27)
New York	Camford Eng 34p +3p	£ Index: 77.2 (-0.3)
Dow Jones 1,261.59 (+0.88)	Acom Computer 27p +2p	New York:
Tokyo Dow 12,580 (-23.26)	Resource Technology 44p +3p	£: \$1.2410
Nikkei Kong 1382.04 (+29)	Energy Services 90p +6p	£: DM 3.0725 (+0.0)
Hong Kong 202.7 (-1.3)	Ocean Transport 183p +12p	£ Index: 45.9 (-1.0)
Amsterdam 202.7 (-1.3)	Kode Int 200p +13p	ECU 80.534025
Sydney: AO 829.7 (-1.3)	Allied Textiles 431p +28p	SDR 20.803358
Frankfurt:	Adam Leisure 18p +1p	
Commerzbank 1180.9 (-0.6)	John Kent 50p +3p	
Brussels:	Norfolk Capital Group 25.5p +1.5p	
General 252.66 (-1.87)	Gestelner 106p +6p	
Paris: CAC 211.0 (unchanged)	Valin Pollen 445p +25p	
Zurich:	Breville Europe 18p +1p	
SKA General 337.90 (-8.1)	Wm Morris Fine Art 29p +1p	
GOLD	FALLS:	INTEREST RATES
London fixing:	Bolton Textile 19p -4p	Bank Base: 13-13 1/4 %
am \$329.80 pm \$329.25	Reardon Smith "A" 15p -3p	3-month Interbank 13 1/4 - 13 1/2 %
close \$329.50-\$330.50 (£267.75-268.75)	Lincoln Connection 28p -3p	3-month eligible bills
New York:	Lincoln Kilgour 173p -15p	buying rate 12 1/2 - 12 %
Comex \$329.80	Edinburgh Oil & Gas 58p -5p	US:
	Metal Sciences 12p -1p	Prime Rate 10.5%
	KCA Drilling 30p -2p	Federal Funds 8 1/4 %
		3-month Treasury Bills 8.17-8.13%
		(0.00%)
		Long bond 96 1/2 - 96 3/4 %

Sullivan
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TEMPUS

Funeral directors in bid battle

There is something undignified about a bid battle between funeral directors, and at a total value of £7.3 million, the City can probably be forgiven for paying little attention to such a macabre contest. But the bid by the Greater Midlands Co-operative Society for Ingall Industries presents much livelier possibilities for Throgmorton Street than just the likelihood of the disappearance from the lists of one of our smaller companies.

This is the first contested takeover attempt by a co-op of a publicly-quoted company and could open up a whole new vista of growth for the British co-operative movement. The Greater Midlands is exercising its strength, being one of the ten societies. Last year its sales, from retailing, funerals and dairy supply, were more than £105 million. And it made the traditional, for co-ops, loss, of £2.75 million.

The society has embarked on a restructuring plan which will take it out of the corner shop era into superstores and specialist retailing. Greater Midlands has five superstores, rivaling Tesco and J Sainsbury, having opened three in the last 18 months. Another superstore will be opened this year, and there are three HomeMaker furniture and homeware stores in operation.

The society is also moving sharply into specialist electrical

retailing with its Sound & Vision chain, which includes television and video rental and repair.

For those City men who simply see co-ops making small losses on unwieldy turnover, the assets are considerable. The Greater Midlands is just completing the sale of one of its large old stores which is written into the balance sheet as worth £1.16 million. The sale price is more than £25 million.

There is plenty of sinuc in this run-of-the-mill society, as can be seen from yesterday's formal offer document. Ingall, its shareholders and the City, would do well to think hard on what it has to offer.

Ingall Industries

Shares in Ingall Industries bounced 20p to a new high at 323p on the news of doubled 1984 profits at £12.4 million pretax. The share prices have also doubled from a year's low at 162p. Ingall's stock is a premium rating well intact.

The stock market's confidence appears justified. Despite rising capacity in the British brick market, Ingall's efforts to change the mix by going upmarket into high margin decorative bricks have paid off. British building products trading profits were up 33 per cent.

The £5.5 million acquisition of H. F. Warner, manufacturer

of "rustic look" clay roof tiles, adds another upmarket product. It is Ingall's first move into clay roof tiles, and although a small purchase, could be the start of something big. Ingall believes it could double present output of 5 million tiles and add clay tile manufacturing at other Ingall sites, where the reserves are suitable.

The US also seems finally to have turned the corner. A trading profit of £800,000 was made in the second half against a first half loss of £1.6 million. Profits this year could be about £1 million. After break even in the first half, there is excellent scope for growth, particularly from the Washington DC plant where Ingall is spending \$3 million (£2.4 million) this year.

Pre-tax profits

of £16 million are expected this year, giving prospective p/e ratio of 9.4 on a closing share price of 315p. The shares are not cheap, but they are well worth holding.

BAT

Accounting sleight of hand or a move to better disclosure? This is the question which divided City opinion this week when BAT announced the change in accounting policy for Eagle Star.

The decision to take as profit the realized and unrealized gains on the general invest-

ment portfolio is certainly controversial, not just because it gave BAT a windfall profit of £95 million, but because it is contrary to industry practice.

The concept of recognizing unrealized profits might appear a little strange, but under company law for insurance companies it is legitimate. There is no question either of BAT's taking account of unrealized surpluses when assessing distributable profits since these are transferred to a revaluation reserve before the final figure is struck.

BAT has taken a fairly conservative line in that the calculation for realized and unrealized gains is based on a five-year moving average. This recognizes the long-term nature of the investment portfolio and smooths out any distortions and prevents manipulation of realized gains.

Certainly the change in policy makes the return on the Eagle Star investment look much healthier, but it does reflect more fairly how the business has performed.

There will be much more open disclosure in Eagle Star's balance sheet as secret reserves make a welcome exit. Investments will be carried at market value, although this will not be reflected in BAT's balance sheet. Eagle Star will be disclosed there as a simple one line entry showing the cost of acquisition.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Blue chips stumble on US fears

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Blue chip stocks were decidedly off colour yesterday. The FT 30 share index has dropped 28.1 points in the past five dealing days, and 25.9 points in the past five dealing days, and 25.9 points were lost from the FT-SE 100 share marker in the first week of the long account.

Uncertainties about exchange and interest rates are at the heart of the decline. Though we may be glad to see the British currency fighting back against the dollar, worries that the pessimists are right and the US is about to fall back into recession are eating at confidence.

At worst, recession in the West's leading economy probably means recession everywhere, and at best, a weak dollar will mean decreased competitiveness for European goods, and decreased spending power outside the US for American investors.

All those rushes on British top quality shares could be over. Such buying, and consequent shortages of stock, has been the basis for much of the London stock market's recent strength.

Yesterday, Sterling was again testing the ground against the dollar, though by the end of the day it was close to Thursday night's close at about \$1.23 to the dollar. The FT index finished at 964.3 down 13.8 points on the day, and the 100 share index at 1277.0 down 10.1.

BO Group appeared to show the shape of things to come. Market men watched the share price drop 10p to 281p and heard talk of "a scramble to get out" by American shareholders.

Other previous US favourites were also under pressure, with Becham Group down 8p at 365p. Glaxo Holdings down 20p at 1085p. Hawker Siddeley down 8p at 409p. Imperial Chemical Industries 12p lower at 762p and Jaguar 4p off at 296p.

Fears for prospective earnings of British companies with sizeable business in America also grew, and City men were quick to point out the companies most affected by a

stronger pound. At Fielding, Newson-Smith, an analyst, Mr Geoff Allum, yesterday published a list of companies in the industrial materials sector which will be hurt or helped by exchange rate changes.

Scapa Group received 58 per cent of sales and 77 per cent of profits from America last year, while BTR, including Dunlop received about 35 per cent and 40 per cent respectively, and Cookson Group got 25 per cent of its profits from the US in 1983.

Wade Potteries' share price rose strongly as market men heard of an unsatisfied buying order. An investor wanted about 50,000 Wade shares late on Thursday night - a stable amount in this stock - and the market was unable to oblige, leaving the price 17p higher at 138p. Suggestions that there might be more to the price hike - such as a stake build-up - did not help. Jobbers find sellers.

Cookson reports 1984 figures next week, but they will still show the benefits of a strong dollar. Fieldings expects the group to announce profits of £47 million, against £21.7 million previously, and a 108 per cent improvement on earnings per share to 56.9.

Yesterday, however, it was clear that the City was discounting such profits and looking gloomily towards 1985 results. The shares fell 21p to 550p, at which price the company has a p/e ratio of just 9.7 on those probable 1984 figures.

Scapa Group fell 12p to 453p and BRT slipped 3p to 691p. But, Mr Allum points out, there is good news from a weak dollar too. Bowater Industries and Staveley, for example, will gain. Staveley has high dollar borrowings, as well as business in the US. Those debts will cost less to service.

Bowater pays in dollars for pulp, and so will see a reduction in raw materials costs for its British plants. Nevertheless, Bowater shares yesterday dipped 2p to 250p, while 50 cents

was lost from the price of the US-listed Bowater Inc.

Rowntree Mackintosh, the perennial takeover favourite dipped 5p to 41p as Mr Paul Beaufre said the shares were overvalued on trading grounds. He has put a hold - buy tag on them. For the present year he is predicting profits of £89 million, compared with £74.5 million last year.

Ocean Transport and Trading, another old takeover chestnut, jumped 12p to 182p on suggestions that the P & O shipping group is about to bid. P & O which recently merged with Sterling Guarantee Trust, fell 7p to 34p.

European Ferries slipped lower in the water. The group appears to be on the verge of clinching a £100 million property deal with a company associated with Mr Stuart Lipton, possibly Stockley.

But fears that its purchase of the P & O Ferries will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission got he upper hand and with a large line of stock on offer the shares sunk 6p to 142p.

A number of other large lines helped depress sentiment. Pilkington Bros was one to suffer, down 1p to 285p. Metal Box was another. It tumbled 15p to 395p. Worries about the group's Nigerian side prompted analysts to downgrade profit forecasts.

Ingall Industries, the brick maker, successfully placed 1.4 million shares at 310p, at which price the company has a p/e ratio of just 9.7 on those probable 1984 figures.

Scapa Group fell 12p to 453p and BRT slipped 3p to 691p. But, Mr Allum points out, there is good news from a weak dollar too. Bowater Industries and Staveley, for example, will gain. Staveley has high dollar borrowings, as well as business in the US. Those debts will cost less to service.

Bowater pays in dollars for pulp, and so will see a reduction in raw materials costs for its British plants. Nevertheless, Bowater shares yesterday dipped 2p to 250p, while 50 cents

The shares tumbled 32p to 263p. They have fallen 93p in two days.

Clearing banks had pennies clipped from their share prices as concern for foreign debts returned. Investors are worrying again about loans to South America, and about British banks' exposure to South Africa. Political events in the latter country are unnerving to City men.

Barclays fell 5p to 582p. Lloyds dropped 12p to 522p. Midland eased 7p to 322p and National Westminster went 8p lower to 619p.

Westland, the helicopter group, was depressed, slipping 4p to 102p on worries over its Indian contract. Energy Services and Electronics gained 6p to 90p as it rejected the ambitious reverse takeover bid from Peck Holdings.

Rams Holdings, the tile group, eased 7p to 78p on its 13 per cent profits fall and Breddon and Cloud Hill Lime Works tumbled 4p to 202p on its 30 per cent profits decline.

Arncliffe Holdings, a building and property group, jumped 6p to 40p following a put-through after some unexciting figures.

Ewart New Northern, the property group, held at 265p. Mr Tom Wilmut, chairman of Harvard Securities, the license

Barratt Developments, the housebuilder, held at 72p yesterday as Tilney & Co., the Liverpool broker, suggested the shares will be 50 per cent higher within 18 months. This year's profit will be only £12.5 million but next year should produce £28 million and 1987 £40 million. Barratt shares were 188p last year.

dealer, has increased his shareholding to 12.8 per cent.

Though the offer for sale in Sintrom, the maker and distributor of computer-related equipment, was oversubscribed according to Barclays Merchant Bank, the share price has been struck at the minimum tender level of 175p.

The 24 employees who applied for shares will get as they asked for, as will applicants for up to 100,000 shares. Investors who asked for 100,000 or more will get roughly 91 per cent of what they asked for. Dealings start next Wednesday.

Traded option highlights

Total volume on the London traded options market was a steady 7,081 yesterday, with few contracts getting special attention. British Telecom was the only option to see more than 1,000 contracts traded: 1,502 BT contracts changed hands.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Adam & Company	13.5%
Barclays	13.5%
BCCI	13.5%
Chubb Bank	13.5%
Consolidated Creds	14%
Continental Trust	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13.5%
Lloyds Bank	13.5%
Midland Bank	13.5%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13.5%
Williams & Glyn's	13.5%
Citibank NA	13%

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £2,000, 10.4%; £2,000 up to £10,000, 11.4%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11.4%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

RECENT ISSUES

Issue	Closing Price
BT Group 10p Ord (90p)	188
Bedford (10p) Ord (1p)	73
Bushell Toys 10p Ord (10p)	135
Cable News 10p Ord (10p)	82
Crown Int Prod 10p Ord (10p)	80
Cuba 10p Ord	92
German Smaller Co's Inv Units	101
Holloway Hodge 10p Ord	126-2
Horn & Co 20p Ord (10p)	184-4
Mayhew Foods 10p Ord (100p)	121-2
Metromark Int 10p Ord (10p)	285-10
Obdurate A Ltd 10p Ord (10p)	200
Pacific Assets Tel 50p Ord (100p)	79
Pega Group 10p Ord (100p)	153
Star Catering 10p Ord (100p)	95-4
Sphinx Television 20p Ord (10p)	106
Symposium Comp 50p Ord (174p)	215
Whitworth's Food 5p Ord (50p)	115

UNIT TRUSTS

M&G SUNDAY TELEGRAPH UNIT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR

Most successful investors start with a clear idea of whether they want income or growth or a balance between the two. Individual unit trusts can meet each of these requirements, but the problem is knowing which to choose from over seven hundred unit trusts.

Before making an investment in a unit trust you should expect the managers to tell you how well it has performed over the long term. Past performance cannot be a guarantee for the future, but it is the best measure you have of a fund's likelihood of achieving its objective. New funds or funds which suffer a change of management are more of a gamble than those which can point to a long and successful record.

We are currently offering three M&G Funds which satisfy the three requirements of income, growth, or a balance between the two. Each has a performance record demonstrating the success of M&G's investment policy over many years. As an incentive we are offering an extra 1% unit allocation if you invest £1,000 or more and 2% if you invest £10,000 or more in any one fund.

Unit trusts are for long-term investment and not suitable for money you may need at short notice. This is because the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Income DIVIDEND FUND

An investor of £10,000 at the fund's launch in May 1964 has seen his income after basic-rate tax grow from £396 in the first full year to £2,018 in 1984.

By contrast, a building society investor's annual income has fluctuated, rising from £536 in 1965 to £1,200 in 1980 and then falling back to £853 by 1984. So anyone who depended on a building society for income has suffered a cut-back over the past 4 years, whilst Dividend Fund investors continued to enjoy a steadily increasing income.

In addition, the Dividend Fund investor's £10,000 had grown to £54,300 by the end of December 1984 compared with £27,271 from a similar notional investment in the FT Industrial Ordinary Index and £10,000 in a building society deposit which, of course, remained unchanged.

If you need income which will grow over the years M&G Dividend Fund could be your ideal investment, because we will continue to make income growth the prime objective. The Fund invests in a wide range of ordinary shares and the aim is to provide a high and growing return with a yield about 50% higher than that of the FT Actuaries All-Share Index.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE OF £10,000 invested in income units at the launch of M&G Dividend Fund on 5th May 1964, compared with a similar investment in a Building Society		INCOME		CAPITAL	
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	M&G DIVIDEND	BUILDING SOCIETY	
5 May '64	-	-	£10,000	£10,000	
1965	£396	£536	10,200	10,000	
1970	628	650	10,760	10,000	
1975	826	871	16,300	10,000	
1980	1,660	1,243	20,000	10,000	
1984	2,018	853	54,300	10,000	

NOTES: All income figures shown are net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are 10% above the average of the rates offered in each year (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Dividend capital figures are all realisation values.

On 27th March 1985 offered prices and estimated gross current yields were:		Income		Accumulation		Yield	
Dividend Fund	308.2p	856.0p	5.72%				
Recovery Fund	253.8p	317.2p	3.80%				
SECOND General	548.2p	1039.8p	4.05%				

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price and an annual charge of up to 1% of each fund's value - currently 3.5% - plus VAT is deducted from gross income (currently 10% for Dividend increasing to 3.4% in September 1985). Income for accumulation units is reinvested to increase their value and income units is distributed net of basic-rate tax on the following dates:

	Dividend	Recovery	SECOND
Distributions	15 Jan 20 Feb 15 Feb	15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug	15 July 20 Aug 15 Aug
Next distribution for new investors	15 July 1985	20 Aug 1985	15 Aug 1985

You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchase or sale will be due for settlement two to three weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. The trustee for Dividend and Recovery is Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited and for SECOND is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Funds are all wide-range investments and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ, Tel: 01-528 4585.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Growth RECOVERY FUND

M&G Recovery Fund is probably the most successful unit trust ever launched. The table below shows just how well it has achieved its aim of capital growth over the long term. The Fund buys the shares of companies which have fallen on hard times. Losses must be expected when a company fails to recover but the effect of a turnaround can be dramatic.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE OF £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund on 23rd May 1965, with net income reinvested		M&G RECOVERY		FT. ORDINARY INDEX		BUILDING SOCIETY	
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G RECOVERY	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY			
23 May '65	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000			
1970	12,760	8,570	11,020	11,058			
1975	26,400	11,121	21,283	16,178			
1980	102,560	17,287	40,175	25,521			
1984	214,720	39,977	52,405	36,769			

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 11.2% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Recovery figures are all realisation values.

Balanced SECOND GENERAL

M&G Second General Trust Fund aims for growth of both capital and income and has a 28-year performance record which is second to none. It has a wide spread of shares mainly in British companies, which are kept under constant review.

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE OF £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Second General on 5th June 1956, with net income reinvested		M&G SECOND		FT. ORDINARY INDEX		BUILDING SOCIETY	
Year to 31 DECEMBER	M&G SECOND	FT. ORDINARY INDEX	RETAIL PRICE INDEX	BUILDING SOCIETY			
5 June '56	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000			
1960	19,534	20,080	11,293	12,483			
1965	31,947	26,230	13,492	16,093			
1970	47,537	30,540	17,143	21,636			
1975	81,843	39,620	23,107	31,831			
1980	200,613	61,600	42,494	49,931			
1984	463,879	142,410	81,519	71,938			

NOTES: All figures include reinvested income net of basic rate tax. The Building Society figures are based on an extra-interest account offering 11.2% above the average yearly rate (Source: Building Societies Association). M&G Second General figures are all realisation values.

SPECIAL OFFER CLOSES 5th APRIL

To: M&G SECURITIES LIMITED, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. All applications received by 5th April 1985, will be given an extra 1% allocation of units. This will increase to 2% for applications of £10,000 or more per Fund. Please invest the sum(s) indicated below in the Fund(s) of your choice (minimum investment in any one Fund: £1,000) in ACCUMULATION/INCOME units (delete as applicable or Accumulation units will be issued at the price ruling on receipt of this application).

NAME (PRINT FULL NAME)	DATE
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POST CODE	
TELEPHONE	
TU 481315	

£20 A MONTH CAN ACCUMULATE A LOT OF MONEY

If you had chosen fifteen years ago to save £20 a month in a building society, and had left the interest to accumulate, by 1st January 1985 your total outlay of £3,600 would have built up to £7,196. On the other hand, if you had chosen to save the same amount each month in one of our larger unit trusts, M&G SECOND General Trust Fund, you would have built up an investment worth £15,320, an extra £8,124.

You can start an M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan with as little as £20. You need not subscribe regularly but we strongly recommend that you do so, by completing the Bankers Order form. By saving a regular amount you make fluctuations in the stockmarket work to your advantage because more units are bought when their price is low than when it is high.

Unit trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic-rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

WHAT YOU COULD HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR £20 A MONTH BY 1st JANUARY 1985

	5 YEARS from 1 Jan 1968	10 YEARS from 1 Jan 1968	15 YEARS from 1 Jan 1968
Amount paid in	1,200	2,400	3,600
M&G Dividend	2,289	7,513	16,705
M&G Recovery	1,913	8,446	22,734
M&G SECOND	2,039	7,262	15,320
FT. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,160	6,143	11,259
Building Society Savings Account	1,499	3,840	7,196

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic-rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are bid prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wide-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

The only changes are those you normally pay with unit trusts - 5% included in the unit price of units and up to 1% annually (currently limited to 3%) for management. There are no extra charges for this Savings Plan. You can vary the amount you pay and you are free to cash in your accumulated investment, or part of it, at any time without penalty. The securities in a unit trust are held in safe custody by the Trustee (one of the major banks). You can follow the progress of your plan by looking up the price of units and the current yield in the Financial Times or other leading newspapers. You buy units at the 'offer' price and sell at the 'bid' price.

SAVINGS PLANS FOR CHILDREN

The minimum age for the Unit Trust Savings Plan is 14, but accounts for younger children can be opened in the name of an adult and designated with the child's full name.

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BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE		TO: M&G SECURITIES LTD., THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ	
CO (M&G)	NAME (PRINT FULL NAME)	I WISH TO SUBSCRIBE £ (min £20)	
SURNAME		each month to the M&G Unit Trust Savings Plan and I enclose a cheque (made payable to M&G Securities Limited) for my first subscription of £ (you may wish to start your plan with a lump sum)	
ADDRESS		I wish my subscriptions to be invested in the Fund circled.	
POST CODE		SP 481315	

BANKERS ORDER DO NOT DETACH FROM ENROLMENT FORM

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First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st April 1985 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 14%.

First National Securities Ltd., First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

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Beating the mortgage squeeze

HOME LOANS

From April 1 thousands of mortgage borrowers will feel not so much a pinch as a severe squeeze on their finances as home loan costs creep further towards record levels.

Past experience shows that a considerable number of home buyers will find themselves unable to afford the higher monthly mortgage repayments. They will be forced to resort to temporary expedients until rates fall again.

Though borrowers have a remarkable ability to keep going in times of high interest rates, there is undoubtedly a problem. "It is a difficult area," said a spokesman for the National Westminster Bank.

"No question about it, our arrears experience has deteriorated over the last 12 months. Problems tend to arise 'en masse' after a rate increase. The worst was after the last rise, and no doubt there will be more if and when we raise our rates this time."

There are also specific types of borrowers who are most at risk. "Those who have trouble are usually people with 95 or 100 per cent mortgages," said NatWest. "The less of their own equity they have in their own house, the less responsible they tend to be."

Mrs Anne Andrews, of the Birmingham Settlements money advice centre, agrees that the problem is growing. "Although the number of borrowers in arrears may be statistically quite small, it is rising all the time. And the people with mortgages who have run into multiple debt problems tend to be far more complicated cases than people in the rented sector."

In dealing with home loans arrears all experts agree on the first step: "they should tell the lender about their problem as soon as possible," said the Building Societies Association.

On the whole, lenders are willing to help. The last thing a building society or bank wants to do is repossess someone's house, if only because of the trouble and expense it causes them.

Society	HOME LOAN COSTS FROM APRIL 1									
	up to £15,000	£15,000-£20,000	£20,000-£25,000	£25,000-£30,000	£30,000-£35,000	£35,000-£40,000	£40,000-£45,000	£45,000-£50,000	Over £50,000	
Abbey National	14.0	14.25	14.25	14.5	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	
Alliance	13.75	13.75	14.25	14.25	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	
Anglia	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
Bradford & Bingley	14.0	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
Britannia	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	14.0	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	
Cheltenham & Gloucester	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
Goldloan	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
Hallifax	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.25	14.5	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	
Leeds Permanent	13.75	13.75	14.25	14.25	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
Leicester	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	
National & Prov	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	
Nationwide	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	
Woodwich	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	13.875	
Barclays	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.75	13.75	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	
Lloyds	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	
Midland	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	
National Westminster	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	12.875	

*Based on latest information available at time of going to press.
Compiled by Susan Proud

However, Mrs Andrews adds: "It has to be said that building societies are often more helpful when I write to them on a borrower's behalf than if the borrower writes to them himself. This is partly because I can give them the kind of information they need to know from the start."

Her advice to borrowers writing to their society about arrears is that they should include full information about their financial circumstances rather than just a bare statement that they are in trouble. Societies seem to react better to this approach, she says.

The options for reducing monthly payment costs vary, depending on the type of mortgage, but ordinary capital repayment loans certainly have an advantage over the endowment type.

The most common method with repayment mortgages is simply to extend the term of the loan rather than raise the rate in interest. Though many of your payments go to clearing the interest, this method does keep monthly costs down.

If on a £30,000 mortgage for example, you elect to keep your loan rate at the old 13 per cent when the society sends notification of the change, instead of moving up to, say, 14 per cent, you will be paying around £15 less a month.

Some building societies, such as the Woodwich, do this as a matter of course. Every time rates change they give borrowers an option to stay at the same rate, or change. Given the obvious convenience to borrowers this system affords, it is perhaps surprising that all societies do not automatically give people the choice.

It is, however, a short-term solution. If rates keep rising you cannot extend the length of your loan indefinitely. And when rates start to fall many people choose to shorten the length of their loan again by remaining at a higher rate. This does not always make financial sense, though.

As Brian Firmin, marketing director of Abbey National, commented: "Around 80 per cent of our borrowers choose to move up with rising rates, and many stay there when rates fall to shorten their loan terms. But it hardly matters in most cases whether the loan is for 25 or 30 years, since the average mortgage length is only seven years."

The second short-term expedient for repayment mortgages is to limit payments to interest only and cut out the capital element. Since most repayment loans have a rising capital element in the repayments as the term expires, the amount of difference an interest only arrangement will make will depend on how long you have had your mortgage.

If it is relatively new the capital element in repayments will be fairly small, so the benefit of paying interest only will also be small. Later on, as the capital element increases the benefit of not having to pay it will be correspondingly greater.

However, you will eventually have to make up the difference on the capital you were not paying. This will increase later repayments when, hopefully, you will be able to afford them again. To avoid the capital repayments building up too much, building societies are generally reluctant to let interest only arrangements run for more than three or four months.

An interest only agreement is also possible with an endowment mortgage. In this case you would cease paying the life assurance premium for a time. It is up to the insurance company, not the mortgage lender, to agree to this, and it may only allow it to run for a short time. This is because many insurance policies are automatically cancelled if a specified number of premiums, often around six months' worth, are not paid.

The only other alternative for an endowment mortgage borrower is to convert to a repayment loan, and then use the cost reduction methods mentioned above. But this is something of a last resort. Building societies are unwilling to advise borrowers to take this course, partly because of the cost involved.

If your policy has been running for less than seven years, for example, the surrender value of the endowment policy is likely to be puny.

Before a bank of building society will agree to any of these courses of action they have to be convinced that the borrower is suffering genuine hardship. Yet it is better to take one of these routes than, for instance, use up your monthly income on full mortgage payments, and then run up debts to meet your other expenses.

Borrowing on overdraft or credit card when you are running into mortgage repayment problems is something all experts advise strongly against.

Much better to check whether you are eligible for any social security allowances. The most obvious in this context is mortgage interest allowance paid by the DHSS in cases of sickness or unemployment.

This is not normally available to those encountering the purely temporary problem of their income not covering high mortgage rates. But many people are eligible for the plethora of other allowances yet do not make any claim.

Finding you qualify for a social security benefit could well make the crucial difference to your monthly finances, enabling you to afford mortgage payments after all.

Richard Thomson

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If your policy has been running for less than seven years, for example, the surrender value of the endowment policy is likely to be puny.

Before a bank of building society will agree to any of these courses of action they have to be convinced that the borrower is suffering genuine hardship. Yet it is better to take one of these routes than, for instance, use up your monthly income on full mortgage payments, and then run up debts to meet your other expenses.

Borrowing on overdraft or credit card when you are running into mortgage repayment problems is something all experts advise strongly against.

Much better to check whether you are eligible for any social security allowances. The most obvious in this context is mortgage interest allowance paid by the DHSS in cases of sickness or unemployment.

This is not normally available to those encountering the purely temporary problem of their income not covering high mortgage rates. But many people are eligible for the plethora of other allowances yet do not make any claim.

Finding you qualify for a social security benefit could well make the crucial difference to your monthly finances, enabling you to afford mortgage payments after all.

Richard Thomson

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Brokers

From Mr John Hackett, British Insurance Brokers' Association
Richard Thomson, describing the selling system in life insurance ("How salesmen can milk life policies"), says that "the people may find that 'the broker's cut is equivalent to virtually their entire first year's premiums'. He is perfectly correct."

But when you look at the full term of the policy the story is very different. In most cases the commission paid to an insurance broker is likely to represent between 7 per cent and 10 per cent of the total premium paid. From this, the insurance broker advises his client, explains the advantages and disadvantages of different types of cover and different insurance companies.

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FAMILY MONEY

صكنا من الامل

Sting in the
Co-op Bank's
Eurocheque

The Co-op Bank is the latest to join the Eurocheque system which allows Eurocheque holders to obtain cash at foreign bank branches, and also pay for hotel and restaurant meals in local currency.

The system, now being used by most of the high street banks, allows the account holder to write cheques denominated in local currency which are then converted back to sterling when the cheque comes home.

The system is not cheap. There is an annual charge of £3.50 for the guarantee card and there is a flat charge of 30p for each cheque you write.

The real sting, however, is the handling fee of 1.25 per cent of the cheque's face value - not to mention any profit the bank makes on the currency conversion. In its favour, the Eurocheque system does mean that money remains in your bank account, possibly earning interest, or at least defraying bank charges, until the Eurocheque comes home to roost.

With travellers cheques you have to pay for them in advance - regardless of whether you need them all or not. The Eurocheque card guarantees payment up to £100 from April 1.

Benefits threat

Some 38 organisations representing the interests of children, women, families and the poor, together with a number of trade unions, have written to the Prime Minister to express concern about reports of possible threats to the child benefit scheme as a result of the Government's now delayed social security reviews.

Mrs Thatcher is reminded of various commitments she made to maintain child benefit. In 1983 she stated: "There are no plans to make any changes to the basis on which child benefit is paid or calculated," going on to guarantee that "we do not intend, and have never intended to change the basis of that benefit."

The letter also highlights how families with children have suffered compared with single people and childless couples.

Fighting Revenue

To many taxpayers the Inland Revenue seems to operate like the Mafia - pay this assessment or prove that you do not owe this back tax is the usual line. And it is difficult for the individual with limited resources to oppose the might of the IR.

"But the right of appeal is a fundamental part of the tax system," says the Institute of Chartered Accountants. "The majority of appeal cases never come before the commission, but the vast majority of appeals are successful."

It provides practical guidance on current procedure for making a tax appeal, the preparation and conduct of a hearing, and the subsequent proceedings up to the statement of a case for hearing in court.

The author, Mr Basil Sabine, is a tax manager with accountant, Deloitte Haskins and Sells, as well as a general commissioner and inspector of income tax.

Copies of the booklet are obtainable from the publications department, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gloucester House, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Witan Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2HL. Price £4.

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New sales aid

If you have an old bookshelf you want to get rid of, need a new one, or want to buy a car, then Loo! looks like becoming essential reading.

Loo! is a publishing idea from two writers, Mr Dominic Gill, who is the Financial Times music critic, and art historian, Mr David Landau.

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Mr David Landau and Mr Dominic Gill

residents, capital gains and capital transfer tax planning, and pensions for the self-employed and controlling directors.

Mr. Major, who headed up Scrimgeour's financial planning arm, will be developing the firm's expertise in retirement counselling, employee benefits and international benefits for expatriates.

DIY tax codes

A system of self-assessment for income tax is on its way, according to the accountant Philip Hardman, of Thornton Baker. "I think the Inland Revenue should work towards a system of self-coding for employees, particularly as there are now relatively few firms on employees' notices of coding," he says.

Hardman also points out that thousands of taxpayers will be in for shock next year when penalties for late income tax returns will be imposed in the 1986 Budget. "The Chancellor might even require that tax returns be sent to the Inland Revenue by July 5 each year," he says.

The time saved by the Inland Revenue as a result could probably be spent in chasing up moonlighters and investigating the black economy.

Doomsday list

The Budget changes on indexation of capital gains tax make it necessary for anyone with investments acquired before April 6, 1982, to have that investment

revalued as at March 31, 1982. Extel Statistical Services is beavering away on a doomsday book which will show the March 31, 1982, quoted price of every security listed on the London Stock Exchange, as well as the published price of all authorized unit trusts.

The book will be available at around £10 some time in May. Full details at a later date.

Car conversion

It will be easier from April 1 to buy a tax-free car. From that date the amount of time anyone must intend to remain outside the United Kingdom before applying to purchase a tax-free motor vehicle will be reduced from 12 to six months. The change does not affect the periods of use allowed in Britain before export. Inquiries about the revised arrangements should be made to local VAT offices where Notice 705 plus an amendment slip will be available.

Debt penalty

Customers who let their bank current account go into the red at the Co-op will, from April 6, find themselves more heavily penalised. The bank is increasing the charges to customers who are overdrawn from 30p to 36p, for both money paid in and many withdrawn.

The Co-op claims, however, that only 18 per cent of all its customers paid bank charges, which, it says, is the lowest for any bank. This compares with 41 per cent of the four major clearing banks.

Sovereign shines

The increase in building society rates may not be welcomed by borrowers, but it brings some improvements for investors. Skipton Building Society is increasing its Sovereign share rates from April 1. Investments of over £10,000 will attract a new rate of 10.35 per cent, equivalent to a gross rate of 14.79 per cent to a basic tax payer, while investments of under £10,000 will qualify for a new rate of 10 per cent the same rate as the Sovereign monthly income account, which has a minimum investment of £2,500.

Skipton's "no strings" account, with no penalties for withdrawing without notice, offers a highly competitive 10.35 per cent.

Meanwhile the Sheffield Building Society is issuing a limited Jubilee one-year term share attracting 10.75 per cent net, which is equal to 11.04 per cent net when interest is credited half-yearly. The gross equivalent yield for basic rate taxpayers is 15.75 per cent. All the Sheffield's high interest accounts can have the interest credited half-yearly and compounded.

Bond paying 9½%

Cannon Assurance is offering a five-year guaranteed income bond which will provide an annual return of 9.5 per cent net for a basic rate taxpayer - equivalent to 13.75 per cent gross.

You can opt for half-yearly income payments, and the minimum investment is £2,000. For higher rate taxpayers income bonds generally enjoy a more favourable tax treatment than building societies, including people who receiving age allowance.

Cannon's guaranteed growth version of the bond, offers a return of 5.4 per cent net plus repayment of capital at the end of five years, as an alternative. For more information contact Cannon Assurance at 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex, Telephone: (01) 902 8878.

Trade fair

Co-op '85, the second international trade fair for worker co-operatives, will be held at Kensington Town Hall on April 2 and 3. Over 120 co-operatives will be exhibiting, covering a range of activities from consumer products, to leisure and services.

The exhibition is open from 10am to 8pm on Tuesday, and 10am to 5pm on Wednesday.

HOME FINANCE

Switching mortgage may pay

As large a home loan as you want - for 13.5 per cent - sounds too good to be true, but that is what investment adviser Mr Paul Marks of Chase de Vere is offering.

"From April 1 we have £10 million available for loans over £30,000, and we lend up to 90 per cent of the value of a property up to £100,000," says Mr Marks.

For loans between £30,000 and £50,000 the interest rate is 13.625 per cent - over £50,000 it drops to 13.5 per cent.

And the lender will consider remortgages for borrowers who are currently paying anything up to 15 per cent for their loans.

There is a £200 arrangement fee, plus legal costs and valuation fees, but it could be worth making the switch.

Loans are available either as straight repayment loans, endowment or pension linked, and there is no premium on the interest or rate for the endowment or pension loans.

Full details from: Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, SW1. Tel: (01) 930 7242.

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- £35,852 cash or an income, tax-free on retirement
- £37,500 extra cash in the event of accidental death.

Canada Life are the experts providing professional advice to make your money work harder for you whilst protecting your family.

*All examples based on male age 30 assume growth in units of 10% p.a. and subject to premium increase after 10 years. Unit values may go down as well as up.

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Name Mr/Ms/Ms _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Date of birth _____

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FIRST PUBLIC OFFER

Invest in America now
and avoid the danger
of a falling dollar

Most experts believe that the US stock market is set for a period of substantial and sustained growth during 1985. It makes sense, therefore, to invest in America now before the market makes another major move.

However, if the dollar continues the trend we have seen in the last few days, then the sterling value of US investments will naturally continue to fall eroding the gains earned in the market.

Now, with the launch of the unique Gartmore Hedged American Trust - a unit trust designed to eliminate the currency risk normally involved in investing overseas - there's a solution to this serious investment problem.

With the Gartmore Hedged American Trust, your investment is

'hedged' completely against any variations in the US dollar. Whether the dollar rises or falls against sterling it makes no difference to the value of

your investment. All that counts is the performance of the underlying portfolio, which will concentrate on American market leaders in a wide spread of sectors to achieve long term capital growth.

No other unit trust offers this degree of protection against the potentially damaging effect of a volatile dollar.

How is this done? By the simple yet effective method of ensuring that all invested money is continuously 'hedged' against the vagaries of the currency.

This ensures that to all intents and purposes you are investing your £ directly into the mighty US market.

ACT NOW -

We believe this fund should form part of your investment portfolio, and like all investments you should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may invest in this fund by completing the coupon below or by telephoning the dealing department on 01-623 5766/5806 during normal office hours.

Gartmore

HEDGED AMERICAN TRUST

To: Gartmore Fund Managers Limited, 2 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP

Please issue units in the Hedged American Trust at 25p until 4th April 1985.

I/we enclose a remittance for the full value of the units to be purchased (minimum £1000) payable to Gartmore Fund Managers Limited.

Please invest: £ _____

in Gartmore Hedged American Trust I tick box for details of Share Exchange Scheme ☐

Tick box for automatic reinvestment of all future net distributions ☐

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Surname (Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title) _____

First Names (in full) _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Date _____

(If there are joint applicants all must sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

T.T.30/3

General Information

The Trust is a Medium Term Unit Trust Company Limited which has the right to invest in the Trust's investments on behalf of the unit holders.

Trustee: Scotia Trustees (Hedged American Trust) Ltd, a "wider range" investment under the Trusts Investment Act 1961. The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry. Copies of the Trust Deed may be inspected at the offices of the Managers.

Management Charges: The Trust has an initial management charge of 5.25% of the value of the assets acquired on the date of issue at the offer price. The present annual charge is set at one per cent, per annum (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust (as compared with the maximum of 2 per cent, permitted by the Trust Deed) which is deducted from the Trust's assets. Should the Managers wish to increase the annual charge, 3 months' notice must be given to all unit holders.

Income: The income of the Trust is distributed by the Trustee annually on 15th January together with certificates for unit holders' tax credits. This may be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue by the unit holder.

The first distribution of income to unit holders in this Trust will be on the 15th January 1986.

Reinvestment of Income: Unit holders who have only requirement is long-term capital growth the Managers operate a Reinvestment Scheme where net income is automatically reinvested to purchase further units.

Purchase of Units: The price quoted to the newspapers is the previous day's closing price. Prices will be calculated at midday (on dealing days) based on the previous day's market close on Wall Street and the exchange rate prevailing at 10.00am London time. You will receive a contract note confirming the details of your investment and the unit certificate will be forwarded by the Registrars within four weeks of settlement.

Bid and offer prices and the yield are calculated in accordance with the rules of the Trust's investments on behalf of the unit holders.

Use of Other Financial Instruments: Presently the only method of hedging available to UK Authorised Unit Trusts is one of "back to back" loans. Should the Department of Trade and Industry agree that currency futures or dealing in forward exchange contracts become permitted investments, it would be the intention of the Managers to utilise these alternative methods of hedging. In addition, the Managers retain the power temporarily to reduce the level of hedging in extreme circumstances. This could be caused by a large imbalance between the level of UK deposit rates and US borrowing rates, which are currently favourable, but are obviously subject to change on a daily basis. Unit holders would, of course, be informed of any such change in the usual policy.

The Trust Deed provides for investment in Options on a recognised Official Exchange: it is the intention of the investment manager to make use of this opportunity when they consider it to be appropriate. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

REVISED INTEREST RATES

From 1st April 1985

Type of Account	Net %	Gross Equivalent %
ORDINARY INVESTMENT	8.75	12.50
BULLION SHARES	10.15	14.50
MONTHLY CONTRACT	9.75	13.93
FIXED TERM SHARES		
3 Years	9.75	13.93
5 Years (Closed)	10.25	14.64
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS	7.50	10.71

*to basic rate tax payers WHEN HALF-YEARLY INTEREST RATES VARIABLE INTEREST PAID OUT

TEACHERS'
BUILDING SOCIETY
Allen View House, Hanham Road,
Windsor, Berks SL4 1JL
Tel: 0222 887172

Please send investment details to:
Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Shares and deposits in the Society are Trustee Investments
Members of the Building Societies' Association and
Investors' Protection Scheme.

Income Tax Relief 1984/85

This advertisement is not an invitation to subscribe for shares.
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of up to 2,000,000 ordinary shares of 50p each at £1.00 per
share payable in full on application to raise up to £2 million

*Introbond will manufacture finished timber products for
the U.K. wholesale market and intend purchasing
stocks of standing timber to give the company a strong
asset base.

*Management has substantial experience in the sawmill
and timber industry.

The subscription list will close when the offer is fully
subscribed but in any case not later than 3.00 p.m. on
3rd April 1985.

Applications will only be accepted on the terms of the
prospectus and on completion of the application form
attached thereto, which are available from:

J.A.C. Gardner F.C.A., Anthony Wieler + Company Limited,
19 Widgegate Street, London E1 7HP Telephone: 01-377 1010

FAMILY MONEY

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

It may pay you to go offshore

As D-day looms, investors with money on deposit at the bank must decide whether they are going to leave their cash where it is and suffer the deduction of basic rate tax from the interest, or make a move.

From April 6 all deposit-taking institutions, except National Savings Bank, will be obliged to deduct basic rate tax from all interest payments before crediting it to accounts - in exactly the same way as the building societies. The idea is to make the banks act as unpaid tax collectors and speed up the payment of tax on deposits.

The unfair aspect of this is that non-taxpayers will suffer the deduction from interest payments in exactly the same way as taxpayers - and they will be unable to reclaim the tax. For those people - largely

children and the over-65s - it makes no sense to accept the lower interest rates.

National Savings Bank is a not very attractive alternative to the high street banks. Quite apart from the queues at the post office counters, you have to give one month's notice of withdrawal from the Investment Account, which is inconvenient, if not impossible, to explain to a seven-year-old, keen to manage his or her own money. It currently pays 12.25 per cent and will continue to pay interest gross, without deduction of tax after April 6.

But there are alternatives. Offshore banks will continue to pay interest gross after D-day as they are outside the jurisdiction of the British authorities, and all the high street banks, as our table shows, have Channel

Islands subsidiaries which will be very happy to accept your deposits.

Generally the Channel Islands branches offer much the same range of facilities as the onshore banks and pay similar rates of interest. Lloyds, for example, offers the standard accounts with seven days' notice paying 10 per cent with no minimum deposit. Extra Interest Accounts with a minimum deposit of £2,500 paying 12.75 per cent, and, perhaps the

into their own after April 6. Both On-line and Piggy Bank savings are available offshore with minimum investments of £5 and £3 respectively, and they will pay 12 per cent.

NatWest also offers very attractive rates from its Channel Islands finance house subsidiary. For amounts between £2,000 and £4,999 you earn 12.5 per cent for money on seven days' notice. For sums over £5,000 you get 0.25 per cent.

Barclays has a range of deposit accounts available in the Channel Islands. The ordinary account with seven days' notice pays 10.5 per cent while the High Interest Deposit Account has limited chequebook facilities. You can withdraw only a minimum of £250 - but it does pay 12 per cent, or 12.5 per cent on sums over £20,000. The minimum investment is £2,000.

Investment accounts for fixed terms of one, three and six months offer rates of 13 per cent, 12.5 per cent and 11.75 per cent respectively.

Midland has a similar range of Channel Islands accounts paying 10.03 per cent on seven-day deposits, and an attractive 13.04 on its High Interest Cheque Accounts, which have a £2,000 minimum investment. Term deposits in the Channel Islands for sums of £10,000 to £25,000 earn 12.75 per cent for one month, 12.125 per cent for three months and 10.75 per cent for a year.

If none of these appeals, it

might be worth bearing in mind the offshore roll-up funds. These are multi-currency funds where you can choose in which currency your deposit is held.

The table shows what is available, minimum investment and the current interest rate paid on sterling deposits. These roll-up funds are of particular interest to anyone going abroad at a future date, or those saving for retirement. Interest can be rolled up and reinvested, deferring tax until such time as

Wait until April 6 before switching

you are abroad and no longer subject to British tax, or until you are retired and perhaps paying tax at a lower rate.

All the funds except Gartmore Capital Strategy, and the Mercury Money Market fund offer the roll-up facility. Some - those indicated with a D on the table - will also pay out interest.

One final word of warning. If you are going to make the switch and you are a taxpayer, do not close your existing deposit account before April 6. There are some extremely complex tax rules concerning the opening and closing years of deposit accounts - which are abolished largely from next year. But to be sure of not paying more tax than is necessary, wait until April 6 to make the move.

Lorna Bourke

CHANNEL ISLAND BANKS

Guernsey, St Peter Port	Jersey, St Helier
Ansbacher	Algemeine Bank Nederland
Australia and New Zealand	Allied Irish
Bank of Bermuda	Bank of India
Barclays	Bankers Trust
Barfield Co	Barque Nationale de Paris
Brown Shipley	Barclays
First National	Brown Shipley
Guinness Mahon	Charterhouse Japhet
Hambros	Chase Bank & Trust
Hill Samuel	Citibank
Italian International	Grindley's
Leopold Joseph	Hambros
Kleinwort Benson	Hill Samuel
Lloyds	Hongkong & Shanghai
Manufacturers Hanover Tr	Kleinwort Benson
Midland	Lazard Brothers
Morgan Grenfell	Lloyds
National Westminster	Midland
Orion Royal	Samuel Montague
Rea Brothers	Morgan Guaranty
N M Rothschild	Morgan Grenfell
Royal Bank of Scotland	National Westminster
Williams & Glyn's	Ottoman
Aldermey	Standard Chartered
Lloyds Bank	S G Warburg
Midland Bank	Williams & Glyn's
	Sark
	National Westminster

ISLE OF MAN, DOUGLAS

Allied Irish	Barclays
Isle of Man Bank	Lloyds
Midland	National Westminster
Rea Brothers	Royal Trust Bank
Williams & Glyn's	(Isle of Man) Int

OFF-SHORE HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS

Fund	Interest Rate-April	Minimum Deposit	Minimum Withdrawal	Cheque Book	*Income	Tel Number
Allied Hambro Dunbar	10.5	£1,000	-	Yes	R/D	0624 26299
Barclays	12.00	£2,000	250	Yes	R/D	0834 77990
Barfield	14.367	£2,500	250	Yes	R/D	0834 73114
Charterhouse						
Central Assets	12.5	£5,000	-	No	R	0534 74689
Gartmore Capital	12.83	£20,000	-	No	D	0534 27301
Guinness Mahon	12.22	£2,000	-	No	R	0481 23506
Guinness Deposit	14.2	None	-	No	R	0481 26521
Hambro Currency	13.21	£1,000	-	No	R	0534 73244
Hill Samuel International						
Hotborn Currency	9.22	£5,000	-	No	No	0481 26268
Deposit Fund	9.2	£1,200	-	No	R/D	0001 686433
IBI International	13.6	£1,250	-	No	R/D	0534 37361
Lazard International	13.25	£1,350	-	No	R/D	0481 26648
Leopold Joseph	9.71	£1,000	-	No	D	0534 74715
Currency Fund	12.96	None	-	No	D/R	0481 26741
Mercury Money Market	10.96	£2,500	-	No	R	0481 28021
Rothschild Old Court	13.78	£1,500	-	No	R	0534 73933
RSC International	12.94	£10,000	-	No	R	0534 27561
S&P Multicurrency	12.88	£1,000	-	No	R	0534 74454
Schroder Money Funds	14.47	£2,500	250	Yes	R/D	0624 28201
Standard Chartered						
Currency Fund						
Tyndall						

Key: R - Interest rolled up D - Interest distributed

Source: Money Magazine

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COMPANY ANALYSIS

THE TIMES

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*Calculated as at 25th March 1985.

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The Fund is based in Jersey and is listed on The Stock Exchange, London.

Mr D. Alder, Director, Britannia International Investment Management Limited, P.O. Box 271, Queenway House, Queen Street, St. Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Please send me the following information: Name _____

Address _____

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□ Please also send me details of the Britannia Accumulation Savings Account. T 30

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FAMILY MONEY

NAT SAVINGS

More than meets the eye to extension

New higher rates for some National Savings investments have just been announced. Investment account goes up from 12.25 per cent to 12.75 per cent on April 11, and the interest rate on NS income and deposit bonds goes up from 12.75 to 13.25 on May 12.

From Monday, though, the general extension terms for NS certificates go up from 9.0 per cent to 9.51 per cent.

The system is not as simple as it might appear.

The scheme applies to certificates of the 7th to 14th, 16th, 18th and 19th issues after they have completed their fixed interest terms. For holders of the hugely successful 19th issue - on sale through most of 1980 and the early months of 1981 - general extension takes over when the certificates have reached the fifth anniversary of purchase.

Rapidity value of a savings certificate increases for each completed three months it has been held beyond the end of the previous fixed rate period. In other words, interest is added at three-monthly intervals.

Anyone seeking repayment should therefore try to time their application so that it takes effect on or immediately after an increment date. Bad timing can be costly. For example, if certificates where the next increment date is April 17 were to be repaid on April 16, virtually three months' interest is lost.

The same applies to certificates which have not yet reached their fifth anniversary. They also have increment dates, related to the date of purchase. After the first year, interest is added at four-monthly rests on certificates up to and including the 23rd issue, and at three-monthly intervals on the more recent ones.

Eight working days' notice

One lesson to be learned is that it is important to keep a careful note of the date of purchase of savings certificates, as this date is the starting point for all later interest calculations. And remember that if certificates are encashed within a year of purchase, the principal sum only is repaid.

Repayment forms are available at post offices, but to make sure you do not miss an increment, append a signed covering note specifying the date on or immediately after which you require repayment. National Savings asks for at least eight clear working days' notice.

As no interest is paid on savings certificates encashed in the first year, do not invest in them unless you are prepared to wait at least a 12-month view. The same applies to National Savings income bonds and deposit bonds. With these, holdings encashed during the first year attract half the quoted interest only.

Harry Powell



WINE TOURS

Vineyard best place to sample the flavour

Wine investors who take their hobby seriously need to travel to the vineyards to get advance information on which wines are likely to be good for laying down. Conal Gregory has been looking at ways of combining this fact-finding mission with an enjoyable holiday.

Probably the most interesting and enjoyable way to assess wine is at the vineyard. A visit to a wine-making region allows the investor to assess the 1984 harvest ahead of shipment and, in some cases, earlier vintages that have been listed but not yet arrived.

For those who wish to have the arrangements made, there is now a good choice of vineyard programmes available. France, the world's second largest wine producer, makes a good starting point. The Loire Valley, with its fair-tale châteaux like Chambord and Azay-le-Rideau, has a wealth of wines, many of which are not well known here. Contacts can be made with small producers from whom UK freight companies will collect and deliver on your behalf, including the documentation through bond.

Thomas Cook offers a seven-day coach tour through the Loire from £162, which includes cellars in Vouvray, noted for both still and sparkling whites by the *Méthode Champenoise*. The red of Chinon is another source visited on this tour, which runs from May 4 to September 28.

Widcombe Wine Tours (3 Oxford Terrace, Tynning Road, Bath, Avon) offers 10 days visiting Loire vineyards and cellars. Paris Travel Service (Bridge House, Ware, Herts) offers a combined trip to Paris and the Loire from £70. Since so many small vineyard plots in Burgundy offer wine from the estate, the region is much in demand by visitors.

The Swiss buy considerable quantities in this way. Travel Around Ltd, (61 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3JS) offers tours to France including Chablis with the author of the

standard book, *Master of Wine*, Rosemary George. The same firm includes Russian vineyards in its range.

Thomas Cook offers seven days in Burgundy from £195 which takes in a visit to the Marche aux Vins in Beaune, Blackheath Travel (13 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LD), which specialises in vineyard tours, is planning a four-night Burgundy tour, commencing October 19, which should allow the first chance to assess the size and overall quality of the 1985 vintage.

Global Overland (Glen House, 200 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0JP) offers eight days from £179 which takes in Reims for champagne, Beaune, Cognac and a visit to the Olard distillery, Bergerac, St Emilion and the Loire. Departures run from May 26 to September 29.

If you are a claret investor, try to be in Bordeaux for Vinexpo the third International

Vintage port a solid choice

World Wines and Spirits week - from June 17-21, when more than 700 companies will participate on 260 stands.

Vintage port remains a solid investment choice. A tour of the Douro Valley, where it is made, can be fascinating and allow an insight both into forthcoming vintages ahead of the auction room and the trend towards single "quinta" (for farm) ports.

Blackheath Travel has an eight day tour departing September 29, which includes Quinta do Noval, Cockburns' lodge in Vila Nova de Gaia and the historic Factory House.

Further afield, there are vineyard tours to Yugoslavia from £280 for eight days through Vukovar and to Bulgaria through Balkan Holidays. For those making their own arrangements, the Peter Dominic chain offers an excellent "passport" scheme, which gives vineyard and distillery introductions. Details from Vintner House, River Way, Harlow, Essex. Matthew Clark and Sons (185 Central Street, London, EC1V 8DR) can

arrange visits to Chartreuse, which is the world's largest liqueur cellar, Janneau Armagnac, Mariell for fine Cognac, and Taitinger Champagne. Contact Mr David Shepherd.

West Germany is a popular vineyard choice. Epsom Coaches (Blenheim Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 0AF) does an economic five-day tour to the Rhine and Mosel as well as regular day trips to the Boulogne Hypermarket for duty-free wines and spirits incidentally.

The most interesting way to learn about West German wines is to take one of the courses run in English by the German Wine Academy, based on the 12th century Kloster Eberbach. Each course includes visits to the major regions. Details from German Wine Information Service, 121 Gloucester Place, London W1M 3PJ.

A Black Forest wine tour to take in such regions as Alsace, Franconia, Baden and the Rhine is offered by Paul Spencey and Son Ltd., Arch No 8, Queen Street, Wigan WN3 4HN.

Austria, as well as the Rhine, Champagne, Alsace and the Loire, are offered by Cox and Kings Special Interest Holidays, 46 Marshall Street, London.

Will you turn £500 of penny shares into £1,000 in just six weeks?



At 9am on Thursday 13th June 1985 we'll prove, conclusively, that it is still possible to double your money in just six weeks by investing in penny shares.

THE EXPERTS' EXPERT

Stockmarket Confidential (SMC) for short is a rather inauspicious looking news sheet which is sent, by first class post, every Wednesday evening. Despite its innocuous appearance it is eagerly read on Thursday morning by a handful of investors up and down the country.

Some of these investors will be professional stockbrokers, heads of industry and other leading financial experts. Between them they may control, literally, millions of pounds.

Others will be smaller, private investors sometimes with as little as £500 or £1,000 with which to speculate.

But what every reader of Stockmarket Confidential has in common is the desire to discover what is likely to happen on the stock market that coming week.

Blindly, they want to know which shares are going to go up, and which shares are going to come down. And they want to know why.

THE SECRET OF INVESTMENT SUCCESS

The only way to make money on the stock market is to have reliable advice and the ability to move fast, before the word gets around and prices rocket.

In Stockmarket Confidential we make buying and selling recommendations, offer sound investment analysis and, most important of all, suggest one or more "Hot Tips" for the week.

If you haven't acted on our "Hot Tips" by Thursday lunchtime you've missed the boat - other SMC subscribers will have already pushed prices up. You'll discover that very often the best investments are the "penny shares" - *Sutton Exploration*, for instance, which rocketed from 12p to 52p in just 42 days. *Bellair Cosmetics* from 25p to £10.50. *Dollands Photographic* from 27p to £3.23... just three examples from a long list of recently successful "penny shares".

WHY YOU CAN ACT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE

Each week editor of SMC chairs a private meeting of the SMC Board of Advisors. Together these financial specialists pool information, validate sources, and discuss the latest City whispers. At the end of the meeting they will have chosen the three hottest tips and decided whether or not to sell shares previously recommended.

We guarantee that none of these tips will be leaked by the SMC Editorial Board, or published, except in SMC.

FREE PRIZE DRAW

Will you turn £500 of penny shares into £1,000 in just six weeks?

HOW WE WILL PROVE THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE

As we've already explained, we believe it is still regularly possible to double your money in as little as six weeks by trading in penny shares. In order to prove it we will enter your name in our next Free Prize Draw which takes place on

PROFIT RECORD SINCE 23rd JANUARY 1985

Share Name	Share Price	% Gain
William Leach	50p	173%
C.H. Bailey	10p	25%
Ryan Hotel	10p	25.25%
Versus Holdings	150p	182%
Sutton Group	450p	765%
Hillside	250p	350%
York Chemicals	50p	70%
Alison	12.50p	24%
Merger Holdings	810p	855%
L. & S. Securities Ltd.	150p	175%
Total Group	25p	77%
Frans	2.50p	350%
Hayes Group	15p	350%
Riley Leisure	20p	61%
Saxon Oil	150p	400%
Pike Holdings	250p	250%
Butterfield-Harvey	21.50p	27%

*All percentage gains allow for dealing costs.

30th April 1985, all you need to do is complete and return the coupon below. If you win, you'll receive £500 to spend or invest as you please. We'd suggest that you invest it in any one of our "Hot Tips" for that week.

Because if you do, and your £500 of shares aren't worth £1,000 by 13th June 1985, we'll make up the difference in cash. That's right we're so confident that our advice is sound we believe that £500 will be worth £1,000 in just six weeks.

Everyone is welcome to enter this Free Prize Draw. No purchase is necessary. A full list of Free Prize Draw winners and full rules are available on receipt of a s.c. Winner's names are published in SMC.

Without obligation

Please send to STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL, Hainault Road, Little Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 3PN. It will cost you nothing to discover how predictable the information in SMC can be. Order your free issue and enter the Free Prize Draw today!

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SMC WEEKLY CONTENTS

* One or more "Hot Tips" - act by Thursday lunchtime before other subscribers push up the prices.
* Portfolio monitor - watching shares already tipped and recommending sells where appropriate.
* Investment analysis including gold, building societies and gilts.
* Valuable inside information for long term capital growth.

As a subscriber you will be given a "Hot Tip Hotline" phone number, so that if you're away from home on a Thursday you can hear a summary of that week's SMC.

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Of course, share prices can go down, as well as up. But we don't want you to risk a penny of your own money until you're convinced that you will make a profit by acting on our advice.

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STOCKMARKET CONFIDENTIAL

Hainault Road, Little Heath, Romford, Essex RM6 3PN

SEND BY 9th APRIL 1985

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"AT OUR AGE WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITH CRITERION"



Why not let the Budget changes work for you?
Now you should switch from any investment that's meant to produce income to one that builds up your capital.
And, preferably, one that should protect your savings from inflation.

Like our friend, many people keep their savings in a building society. But they - and you - could be missing out.

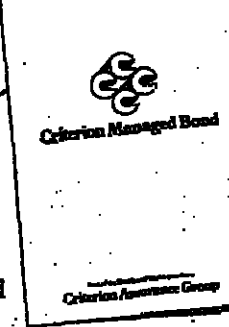
By switching money to a Criterion Managed Bond, you'll have an investment that builds up without you having to worry about income tax deductions. It can also pay you an income that should leave your original investment intact - because your capital growth should more than pay for it. The money from your Bond combines with that of other investors and goes into the Criterion Managed Fund - which is managed by N. M. Rothschild Asset Management Ltd. They have research and analysis facilities in all the major

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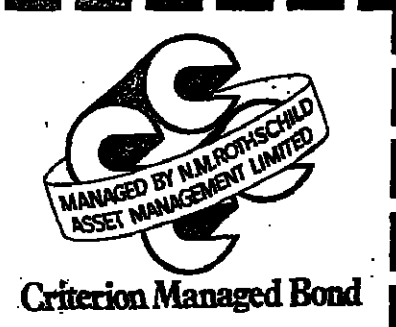
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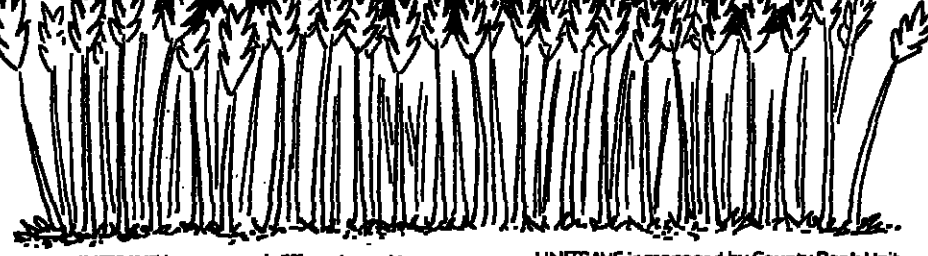
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To find out more about UNITSAVE, please complete and return the coupon below for full details, or call into your local National Westminster branch.

To: County Bank Unit Trust Services Limited, 161 Cheapside, LONDON EC2V 6EU. I am interested to learn more about UNITSAVE. Please send a copy of your explanatory leaflet and application form to:

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 25. Dealings End, April 12. Conlang Day, April 15. Settlement Day, April 22. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares retreat

سكنا من الامل

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000
WEEKLY DIVIDEND £20,000
Claims required for +24 points
Claims required for +108 points

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
1	AAH	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
2	Chamberlain & Hill	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
3	Bridgend Process	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
4	Domination Int	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
5	Cook (Wint)	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
6	Bridon	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
7	BETEC	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
8	Br Syphon	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
9	Camfed Eng	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
10	Cherry Hill	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
11	Hager & Hill	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
12	RMC	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
13	Begonide Brick	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
14	IDC	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
15	Jarvis (J) & Sons	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
16	Ruby Cement	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
17	UBM	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
18	Bryant	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
19	Feb	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
20	Aberdeen Forest	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
21	Memo	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
22	Quest Automation	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
23	Murphy Elect	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
24	MR Elect	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
25	Urd Scientific	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
26	Thorn EMI	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
27	Dalmer	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
28	Volex	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
29	BSR	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
30	Brown Boveri Kent	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
31	Stewart Plastic	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
32	Cudde	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
33	Alfred C. Lloyds	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
34	Canam (W)	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
35	Brent Chem	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
36	Laport	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
37	Hickson	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
38	Cory (Horse)	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
39	Rentokil	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
40	Re Tar Products	100.00	98.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

Weekly Dividend						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100.00	98.00	AAH	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Chamberlain & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bridgend Process	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Domination Int	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cook (Wint)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bridon	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	BETEC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Br Syphon	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Camfed Eng	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cherry Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hager & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	RMC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Begonide Brick	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	IDC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Jarvis (J) & Sons	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Ruby Cement	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	UBM	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bryant	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Feb	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Aberdeen Forest	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Memo	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Quest Automation	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Murphy Elect	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	MR Elect	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Urd Scientific	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Thorn EMI	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Dalmer	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Volex	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	BSR	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Brown Boveri Kent	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Stewart Plastic	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cudde	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Alfred C. Lloyds	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Canam (W)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Brent Chem	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Laport	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hickson	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cory (Horse)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Rentokil	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Re Tar Products	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E
100.00	98.00	AAH	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Chamberlain & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bridgend Process	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Domination Int	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cook (Wint)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bridon	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	BETEC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Br Syphon	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Camfed Eng	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cherry Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hager & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	RMC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Begonide Brick	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	IDC	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Jarvis (J) & Sons	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Ruby Cement	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	UBM	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Bryant	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Feb	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Aberdeen Forest	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Memo	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Quest Automation	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Murphy Elect	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	MR Elect	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Urd Scientific	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Thorn EMI	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Dalmer	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Volex	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	BSR	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Brown Boveri Kent	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Stewart Plastic	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cudde	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Alfred C. Lloyds	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Canam (W)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Brent Chem	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Laport	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Hickson	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Cory (Horse)	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Rentokil	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
100.00	98.00	Re Tar Products	100.00	0.00	10.00	10.00

OVERSEAS/TEEN YEARS						
	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low	Company	Price	Chg	Yld
100.00	111.4	108.0	AAH	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Chamberlain & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Bridgend Process	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Domination Int	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Cook (Wint)	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Bridon	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	BETEC	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Br Syphon	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Camfed Eng	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Cherry Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Hager & Hill	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	RMC	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Begonide Brick	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	IDC	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Jarvis (J) & Sons	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Ruby Cement	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	UBM	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Bryant	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Feb	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Aberdeen Forest	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	War Lst	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0	Compas	100.00	0.00	10.00
100.00	111.4	108.0				

... ..

First Published 1985
Sudan plan
for strike
to topple
Nimeiry

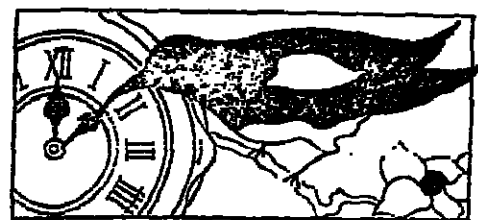
Continued from page 1
More than 30 others
been treated for head
injuries. One has been
paralysed, though he
will recover.

One eye-witness said the
electric sticks were
made of bamboo. They
were used to beat the
protesters. The police
barricade was broken
down by the army. The
army had been ordered
to clear the area.

The official govern-
ment has blamed the
protesters. But it
has not been clear
whether the protest was
planned or spontaneous.

The government has
said it will not
allow any more
protests. It has
ordered the army to
be on high alert.

The government has
said it will not
allow any more
protests. It has
ordered the army to
be on high alert.



As the clocks go forward
to summer time, we go out
into the gardens. More on
page 33: plants on the
rocks and the bookshelf,
hidden treasure unearthed

THE TIMES Saturday

30,31,34
Travel: The Ivory Coast,
the canals of Bruges and
Travel News; Values on
grandfather clocks; results
of chocolate competition

35,37,38
Review: Classical records;
Bridge; Chess; Family
Life; On the Air: TV and
radio; and this week's guide
to what's on in the arts

MARCH 30 - APRIL 5 1985 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Hives of a growth industry

Visitors to Britain's green and
pleasant botanic gardens might
overlook their role as scientific
institutions. Michael Young
reports on their growing potential

The main hall of the
Herbarium of the Royal
Botanic Gardens at Kew
is a tall and voluminous,
if rather cluttered, space. At one
end an ornate cast-iron staircase
spirals up to an equally ornate
gallery that runs along four
walls. The hall is crisscrossed with
hanks of small white lockers in
which are stored just some of
Kew's five million dry plant
specimens. There is a dusty
smell about the place.

Numerous plant chests fill the
central well of the hall, their
surfaces littered with pre-
cautiously balanced packages tied
with string. There are countless
manila folders and buff-
coloured envelopes with pink,
white and blue labels hanging
from their edges.

Just some of the thousands
of specimens we receive from
around the world every week,"
says Professor E. Arthur Bell,
director of the gardens, who took
me on a brisk walk through the
Herbarium. He pulled an ancient
folder from one of the lockers and
opened it to reveal a fragile sprig
of something pasted to an equally
fragile sheet of paper. "All
specimens are fumigated before
they enter the collection," he
says. "But the horror of any
keeper is to get an insect in."

Kew's reputation as the finest
botanic garden in the world is
well-earned. Its origins lie in a
nine-acre botanic garden which
was started in 1752 by Augusta,
Dowager Princess of Wales and
mother of George III. When she
died in 1772, George joined his
mother's estate to his own
adjointing land at Richmond.

Kew's scientific reputation
was established by the great
botanist Sir Joseph Banks, the
garden's first unofficial director.
He had travelled with Captain
Cook to the South Seas, and
subsequently became a scientific
entrepreneur sending plant
collectors to all parts of the
globe.

Such a business was fraught
with danger. The famous
voyage of 1787, led by the ill-
fated Captain Bligh aboard
HMS Bounty, was essentially an
expedition to collect breadfruit
from Tahiti for cultivation in
the West Indies. The voyage
was interrupted by the mutiny
and David Nelson, a gardener
at Kew who had sailed with
Bligh, sided, to his peril, with
the captain. He was cast adrift
by the mutineers in an open
boat and washed up 11 weeks
later on Java, where he died.

The British Isles are particu-
larly well endowed with botanic
gardens and Kew's 300 acres of
trees, lakes and glasshouses is
undoubtedly the jewel. Botanic
gardens can be found in most
university towns and the
majority are open to the public
occasionally, if not every day.
But what is the relevance of a
botanic garden in an age of
microchip technology? Profes-
sor Bell is quite clear: "Kew

is a reservoir of living plant
material and a dry and live data
base for research. Our primary
role is scientific but we have a
traditional role, too, to identify
economic plants and to pursue
taxonomy."

A dry-as-dust pragmatic view
perhaps, but one that is of
immense importance. Kew's
scientific data has had many
unforeseen spin-offs. Its vast
collection of microscopic slides
covering every aspect of wood
enables staff to identify wood
from almost any source and in
any form. "We have been called
in to identify bits of tree roots
suspected of causing house
subsidence and we have even
identified minute traces of
sawdust for Scotland Yard."

Trained as a biochemist,
Professor Bell cites with some
enthusiasm Kew's 37,000 index
cards on economic plants.
"There is in some areas of
Kew's resources an embarrass-
ing and untapped well of
information," he says. "If we
could tap the information
stored on these cards, maybe
using computers, we could
certainly find uses for plants
that we may never have
believed possible. Only 1 per
cent of all plants have actually
been studied for their economic
properties."



Planting seeds of discovery

When Captain Bligh made his
calamitous journey on the
Bounty, he was, in fact, on quest
for breadfruit (right) from
Tahiti for
cultivation in the West Indies.
One of Bligh's few
companions to support him in the
mutiny was David Nelson of
Kew Gardens. Kew's more
successful projects have
included Sir Joseph Hooker's
introduction of rubber from
South America in 1876 and the
development of quinine.
At Kew and other gardens
such as Chelsea (below)
research into economic and
medicinal exploitation of
plants continue.



Chelsea: A new prescription

The healing
properties of
plants were well-
known to our
medieval fore-
fathers and there
has been a recent
revival of interest
in the possibilities of this
alternative form of medicine.
Chelsea College, for example,
is currently using feverfew in a
clinical study of migraine, and
gets its plants from the Chelsea
Physic Garden. Duncan Donald,
newly appointed curator of the
garden, would like to expand
both the medicinal and econ-
omic exploitation of plants and
sees Chelsea as ideally placed to
supply authenticated specimens
for such study.

"In many ways," he says, "we
are not much further on than the
medieval ages in this area. It is
a very exciting science but one
that really does mean getting
your taxonomy right in the first
place."

The Chelsea Physic is an
esoteric, almost secretive four-
acre retreat of trees and shrubs
pressed hard against the
Thames. Founded in 1673, its
history has been one of fluctu-
ating fortune and patchy patron-
age. In the past it has clung to
its somewhat elitist role as an

institution founded for research,
jealously guarding the plants
within from public scrutiny. The
Government's market-place
economy has changed all that.

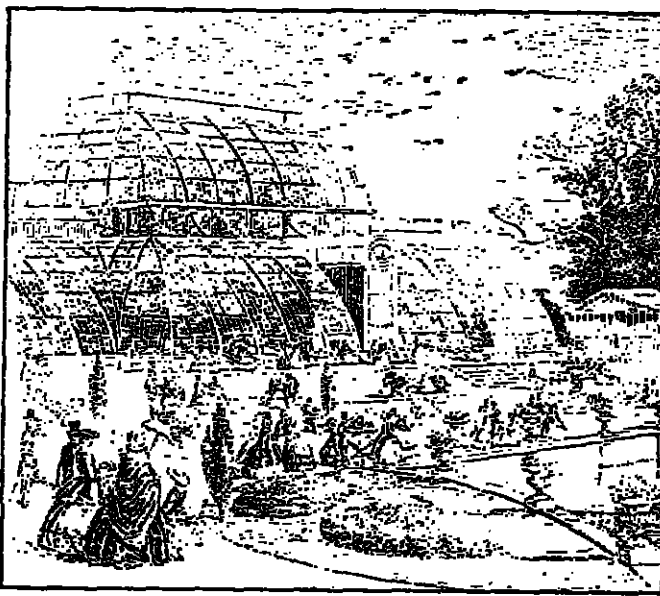
Donald is a young man of
considerable enthusiasm and
just the right degree of dynam-
ism required to haul the
Chelsea Physic Garden into the
20th century. His brief from the
trustees is to establish, as far as
possible, a self-financing gar-
den.

Opening on just two after-
noons a week last summer, the
garden attracted 15,000 visitors.
But the real problem for Donald
is one of balancing the fine
equation between the number of
paying visitors needed with
those the garden can actually
accommodate before suffering
damage. "The maximum num-
ber the garden can take
annually can only be about
25,000. I can't therefore see a
time when we can become
totally self-financing and free
from endowment in some form."

His intention is to make the
garden's facilities which include
a lecture hall, library, and
the scientific plant collection
commercially available to
outside organizations. To this
end the English Garden School
is currently on the premises. "It
is a totally autonomous body
and a very successful arrange-
ment, continuing the tradition of
education on site."

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Chelsea Physic Garden, Royal
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Chelsea Flower Show week,
May 21-24, Tues-Fri noon-5pm.
Admission £1.50; students,
children £1.



Top of the glass: Kew's largest greenhouse, the
Temperate House (top left); two views of
Burton's magnificent Palm House, finished 1848

Oxford: Roots in research

"Once you have
brought a rare
plant into a botan-
ic garden that
plant is at risk",
said Ken Burras,
superintendent of
the Botanic
Garden in Oxford for the past
21 years. A single specimen may
flourish in the ideal conditions,
but it is only one sample from
the gene pool of a colony. "A
more important and more
practical approach to conser-
vation is to alert the public to a
plant's natural habitat. Preserve
the environment, that is conser-
vation. It is no good rescuing a
plant and then destroying its
habitat."

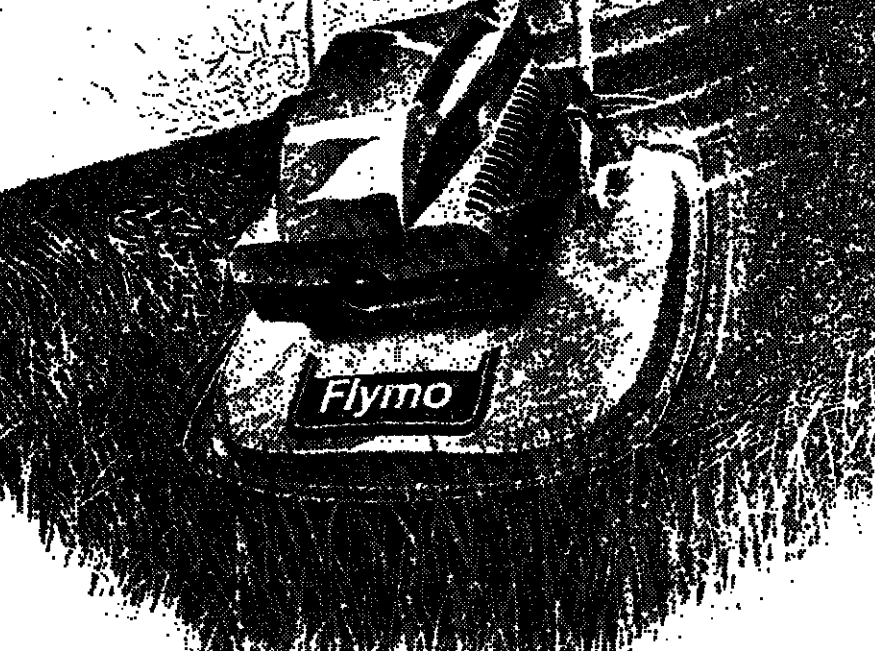
It is perhaps appropriate that
conservation should be of
profound concern at Oxford, the
oldest botanic garden in the

country. Founded in 1621, it is
financed exclusively by the
university. "Our principal role,
as is any university botanic
garden, is to aid teaching and
research within those build-
ings", Mr Burras said. "Our job
is to grow plants for the
university."

"Naturally we think about
the aesthetics of the place. But
if we were to spend too much
time and income on providing a
public image this would eventu-
ally impinge on our work."
The garden was founded by the
Earl of Danby to advance the
cause of medical science. Orig-
inally called a physic garden, it
did not drop the epithet in
favour of botanic until 1840,
when a Professor Daubeny took
over and decided it should be
more than a breeding ground for
herbalists. He wanted to dis-
cover what the study of plants
could do for science and
industry.

Digging around in Oxford, p33

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TRAVEL 1

Out of touch with animists

Occasionally, the loneliness of other places reaches out noisily, like marsh gas. One thinks: what am I doing here - in Nganglong Kangri, Nossi Bé or Nantwich. So it was with Abidjan. The plane lowered itself gingerly, as if expecting the runway to be coated with some repellent substance; and when the doors opened the climate embraced me with the warm, moist kiss of a cocktail party lull. Immigration officials were surly, and two small boys almost drew blood for the privilege of cleaning my shoes as I walked towards the waiting car.

It was dawn, when human-kind is not at its best. Along roadways a weird metamorphosis was in progress: grey bundles split like chrysalises, hatching pedlars and archers, sinners and saints into their perfect daytime forms. The government paper - the only paper - carried the headline "Le Coup D'Envoi" and Abidjan, commercial capital of the Ivory Coast, came into focus, taking shape as a miniature Miami. I hadn't expected mud huts and witch-doctors, but neither was I prepared for a skyscraper civilization.

Checking in at the Hilton, I suffered that not unfamiliar sensation of being processed. I feared that to Messrs Hilton I was a digital print-out on a telex form, which I find as offensive as being asked if I play golf. But I recanted immediately coffee arrived in my room, delivered by a waiter whose smile came from a long way behind his eyes. He drew the curtains on to a vast lagoon, sequined with what at first seemed water-lilies but which turned out to be forest debris from up-country storms. I saw eight men paddling a dug-out canoe, a scene straight from Shakespeare and I extracted from the cove's shell - Ivorian symbol of the female sex organ - on my breakfast tray a Baoulé proverb: *N'uf ne trompe pas dix*, which I interpreted in several ways as I tried to snatch a couple of hours sleep.

It was no good. I can't sleep, even after a night-long flight, when there's somewhere new beyond the air-conditioning so I

A glimpse behind the skyscrapers at the Ivory Coast by Michael Watkins



walked, finding myself in a two-tone city, all aluminium and glass, with the upward mobility of the American Midwest, its pavements choked with black Africans carrying pineapples on their heads, cooking food at kerbsides. At traffic lights cars were besieged by touts cleaning windcreens, hawking fruit and ball-point pens; the drivers stared ahead, minds and windows firmly closed. At Lavandiers du Banco drying laundry covered the ground, a multi-coloured crop ready for mid-morning harvest. At the museum the nightmare relics of times past were displayed: tribal effigies and masks, shaped to instil fear, to produce primitive order from chaos. There were a few European women on the streets; they carried shopping baskets and had the etiolated, bleached look of too long in the tropics.

I'd better come clean. It was a put-up job between the Ivorian government, British Caledonian Airways and Hilton International Hotels to invite me to Abidjan.

The economy is wonky, a

recession is chewing the sap out of the country, hotel beds are empty; and it was hoped that my honeyed sentences might reverse the situation, generating a massive boom. They referred to tourism, of course; except that there is no "of course" about it. It might look bald and it might seem ungrateful, but the Ivory Coast simply isn't ready for mass tourism and, personally speaking, I'm not sorry that such is the case. I liked the gentle Ivorians too much to wish the likes of some of us on them.

You could say that I'm blinkered, out of touch. I'd go along with that: in fact I worked at being out of touch in Abidjan. I drifted, aimlessly, map-less, not caring whether I was in the equatorial equivalent of Earls Court, Islington or Hampstead. I went to a party in the scented suburbs I must tell you about because it was there that I met Crump.

The attractive girl at the British Embassy had told me there were 28,000 French expatriates in the Ivory Coast and 400 British. Most of the British were assembled in a drawing room marginally smaller than Salisbury Plain. I don't think there were any French and there was not one Ivorian, apart from staff - grown men known as "boys". Shedding my jacket on a 10-seater sofa, I joined in the durbar, for this was how I began to see the event. I'll try not to make a meal of it, but the men talked business and golf, while their wives missed Marmite, Muswell Hill and Selfridges. No, they weren't learning French and no, they didn't mix with Ivorians because they couldn't "understand" them.

Mostly, they were serving out sentences, with no chance of remission for good conduct. They were "company" people through and through, with dainty manners, a cook, house-boy, gardener and night-guard. They weren't especially dull or stupid and they certainly weren't vicious; they were just bored and out of place, caught up in Abidjan when Abidjan would have suited them better. Yet in their letters home to Yewkay they probably saw

themselves in heroic roles, pioneers, "flying the flag". "Out from Yewkay, are you?" barked Crump. For one nasty moment I thought he was going to call me "old boy" and I still think it was a close shave. Crump had been in West Africa 30 years and wore a safari suit

Dancing in the street with a sprinkling of petals

and talked about 79-year-old President Houphouët-Boigny: "I know exactly what'll happen to this country when the old man dies," he said. "I mean, it's only a generation and a half since they were in the bush." A man of lesser delicacy might have said "swinging about in trees"; and as I listened to Crump's awesome predictions I could almost hear war-drums at the end of the garden and the whooping as they swarmed over the hibiscus border.

Possibly, in some remote penal settlement, renowned for harsh discipline and public executions, they are lacking for a new governor. If such is the case and they'd care to send a stamp addressed envelope, I'll put them in touch with Crump.

Officialdom is as relentless in the Ivory Coast as elsewhere, and I joined in the dance because there was no polite alternative. Dutifully did I trail round the cocoa factories of Abidjan; earnestly did I listen to lectures at the Cocoa and Coffee Research Institute; seraphically did I smile and nod at pineapple production estimates... when the melancholy truth is that I find the coffee bean a singularly unlovable object. Though I'm partial to a Mars bar in its digestible condition, the trauma of its early days in the cocoa fields is something it should keep to itself.

On my way to a mandatory beach lunch at Grand Bassam I noticed, along the dusty bush road, a sign pointing to Bregbo. "Turn right," I instructed the driver in imperious Crump language. "We'll be late for lunch," said the driver. "Lunch will keep," I said grandly and, rather to my surprise, it worked. Soon we were in Bregbo where I'd heard a wise man lived, a prophet named Albert Atcho, disciple of the Harrist sect. I'd heard that he was 80 and that, by combining the use of plants

and prayer, he could rid the possessed of their demons.

At Bregbo I found a single dirt street, the *Eglise du Prophète* Harris, fishing piraguas moored in a lagoon and a terrace sheltered by corrugated metal sheets from which hung a sign: *Confessions - télégrammes*. I found something else too: hosts of the prophet's followers waiting, resting in the shade, seemingly full of hope. A dance was performed up and down the street; there was chanting, the sprinkling of petals. Once it rained, a brief violent affair, after which it steamed breathily.

An acolyte dressed in an electric blue track suit told me that the prophet was luncheon, that he would see me shortly and would like to offer a choice of Pernod or Coke. Pouring Coke, the acolyte said that the prophet had 100 children. Eventually he led me to the prophet's room, which contained a bed rumpled as an elephant's hide and a bare table at which the holy man sat watching colour television. I waited as the pilgrims threaded past, taking his hand, bowing to the formula of his benedictions; and not once did the prophet's

eyes waver from the television screen.

It's easy to sneer, yet I felt a kind of quietude in Bregbo. I experienced an uplift that sustained me on the ferry crossing to Grand Bassam and throughout the beach lunch party, at which several guests were bare-breasted wives of French expatriates. The sea was swimmable and the food excellent, for the French imprint is indelible - in cuisine, style, elegance and arrogance. "They think it's still a bloody French colony," someone muttered over lunch. It was a Crumpism, but not wildly misplaced.

On another day I was driven 160 miles to the president's birthplace of Yamoussoukro, today the official capital. Leaving Abidjan the road sliced through forest, entering then a scrubby savannah. Whenever we stopped I smiled and waved; invariably friendliness was reciprocated. It is a simple test, but effective: an oppressed people do not smile and wave back. They were tall and handsome; the women moved sinuously, conscious of their sexuality; the children were beautiful and curious and one day they will inherit Yamoussoukro in the same manner in which Egyptians inherited the Great Pyramid of Khufu.

For Yamoussoukro is a mausoleum more than a city. Avenues as wide as the Champs Elysées cut through space in every direction, overhead lighting burning day and night; but there are few houses and no laughter; and, abruptly, these avenues terminate and the forest draws closer. Even the official guidebook lists "the considerable gaps from which rise a scattered array of sumptuous buildings, such as the House of the Party". The Library of the Archives stood incomplete, abandoned when funds ran out; the Hotel President has 300 rooms, is served by 350 staff and, during my brief stay, entertained 10 guests - according to a disarmingly honest receptionist. When I dined in the flying-saucer shaped restaurant above the eerie empty city, mine was the only table in use.

On the other hand, the President's palace, enclosed within its fortified wall, was well attended by the praetorian guard and pretty fierce they looked. Outside the palace, from the banks of a lake, the

President's alligators were fed chunks of meat daily. It is part of Ivorian pagantry, like distributing the Maundy money. But even these creatures seemed infected by the spirit of the place: they slithered droop-eyed, listless, their jaws moving painfully as if, like Captain

Hook's crew, they'd each swallowed a clock. Indeed, there is something of Never Land about Yamoussoukro itself: it is faerie, preposterous and, I am afraid to say, lacking in substance.

Back in Abidjan I did some reading: I read that 60 per cent of the 8 million Ivorians are animists, that there are more than 60 ethnic groups from the Malinké to the Baoulé, the Koulango to the Niaboua, with a plethora of languages and dialects. I read about liana bridges built above rivers in a single night; about the elephants and buffaloes of the western region; about Mount Nimba, the highest peak in West Africa, and about the almost forgotten loveliness of Grand Béréby and San Pedro, approachable by a weekly plane. I read about the special architecture of Ferkessedougou, the fishermen of Ebrié. Senoufo dances and the marriage rites of the Yacoubas. But these are things I did not enjoy first-hand. Instead I saw the

new Abidjan golf-club house, which has three swimming pools and an apparatus for simulating waves. On my last day I was tapped by Radio Côte d'Ivoire, one of the questions put to me being: "Is there freedom of the press in Britain?" Yes, I replied, our press was free... but with a single party republic, government-controlled radio and television, one newspaper, was the Ivorian press free? A look of cataleptic shock appeared on the interviewer's face before he recovered to offer so arcane a definition of freedom that he completely lost me.

As I changed to dine with our man in Abidjan, I listened to the programme in my room at the Hilton. I thought on balance that they handled my bad manners with great charm and with no loss of face whatever. My question on press freedom came over uncensored; but instead of the interviewer's reply they put on a scratchy recording of Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves".

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TRAVEL NOTES
British Caledonian Airways has a weekly Gatwick-Abidjan flight taking about six and a half hours, excursion £813 return; first class £957 each way. So far as I can discover, no British tour operator includes the Ivory Coast. A double room at the Abidjan Hilton is £56. Dinner for two with wine, £20. The climate is warm and oppressively humid; there are officially designated "rainy seasons" but since these vary from one area to the next, it is impossible to be precise. French is the "educated" language, but many people in government, the media, hotels and restaurants speak English.

IVORY COAST
Geoff Sims
Map showing Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Gambia. Key locations include Yamoussoukro, Abidjan, Grand Bassam, San Pedro, and Grand Béréby.

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TRAVEL 2

Feast for the eye in a medieval masterpiece

Bruges is one of those places best visited when there is an 'R' in the month. In May, June, July or August, the tourists swarm here in their thousands, jamming the narrow cobbled streets, cameras clicking loudly enough to drown the notes of the carillon, the crowds concealing the rare charms of this medieval masterpiece of a city: but at other times...

Go there in winter, when the red-brick stepped houses loom out of the mist which rises from the network of canals; try autumn, when the yellow leaves from the plane trees lie thickly around the old mellow red-brick churches; or better still, try early spring, when the daffodils wave their yellow heads by the hundred on the sweep of grass by the Beguinage, and the sharp air sparkles. At any time when the crowds are absent, Bruges is a city of delight.

It lies on the western coast of Belgium, a few miles from the sea, two hours' drive north from Calais across the flat-country of Flanders. Once upon a time Bruges was a great port, linked to the sea by a long channel, the Zwin. During the 13th century it reached the heights of prosperity as a trading centre, and became a member of the Hanseatic League of Seventeen Cities, a forerunner of the Common Market, no less.

Consuls from the merchant cities of Europe, from England and Scotland and Genoa and Venice, found it worthwhile to establish offices here, and in the late 15th century Bruges reached a peak of wealth and culture after the last heiress of the Count of Flanders, Margaret of Male, married Philip the Good, the mighty Valois Duke of Burgundy, who adopted Bruges as the capital city of his vast domains.

Philip, who was already rich, grew even richer from the town's profits in the Flemish cloth trade.

He and his subjects lavished their profits on Bruges, to create the splendid medieval city which visitors relish to this day. There isn't much night-life, discos seem conspicuous by their absence, and even the tourist traps are closed out of season, but if your eye turns fondly to the past, then Bruges is well worth a look.

And that, in a way, is the story. Bruges is a city of the high, medieval Gothic, a city frozen in time. Not a lot has changed, at least architecturally, since Philip's unfortunate son, Charles the Rash, was laid in his

gilded tomb in the church of Notre-Dame after his defeat before Nancy in 1477.

Bruges is a mellow brick city, with narrow winding streets, tree-filled squares, tall towers and great churches, a jumble of houses leaning prettily together, and best seen by wandering about on foot, having first put on thick-soled walking shoes or trainers. A day's sightseeing over the cobblestones can play havoc with the feet.

The centre lies within a double circle of canals which once also served in the office of moats. Any sensible tour will begin at the Markt, the vast central square. Here, the Belfry, which holds the carillon, rears up for nearly three hundred feet, and the hard, puffing climb to the top, up one step for every day of the year (including leap day) offers a good way to get a view of the city or even across

Bruges is a city of delight at any time when the crowds are absent

the polders to the gleam of the sea near Zeebrugge.

Old step-gabled houses, now cafes or hotels, surround the Markt, and a short passageway leads off to the Burg, the ancient heart of the city. It contains the Gothic town hall, built in 1376, ablaze with the tinctures of heraldry on the outside, and with a magnificent medieval council chamber inside, as well as the dark little Church of St Basil, part Gothic, part Romanesque.

This contains Bruges' most famous possession, the Relic of the Holy Blood, which a local nobleman brought home from the Second Crusade in 1150. The Holy Blood is displayed in this basilica every Friday, and carried through the city in procession on Assumption Day

each year. In 1985 this will fall on May 16.

Wandering north from the Burg brings you to the old consuls' quarter, to Spanjaardstraat (the Spanish street), to Engelse Straat (the English street) and to another blazon-bedecked consular building, the House of the Genoese, in a small square dominated by a large statue of the painter Jan Van Eyck. Van Eyck was just one of the great artists patronized by Philip the Good and his successors, and his work and that of the other Flemish Primitives can be inspected in the Groeninge Museum, which contains paintings by both Bruegels, Roger van der Weyden, Hans Memling, Bosch and many more.

Philip was a cultured man and he made the Court of Burgundy a centre for art and letters, inviting painters, sculptors and architects to embellish his city. Most of the Bruges museums are clustered together along the side of the Dijver canal.

The Church of Notre-Dame, where Philip founded his Order of the Golden Fleece, and the Lace Centre, where the local ladies still ply their bobbins, are also attractive places to visit. The best Bruges lace can rival any work of art - even for price. A handkerchief-sized piece of the finest *towneswork* (which's work), supposedly too fine to be made without supernatural assistance, costs more than £300! I settled for half-a-dozen pink marzipan pigs from one of the city's excellent confectioners as my take-home present.

For those who have a culture threshold low enough to trip over, there is plenty of light relief after a day's sightseeing. Good restaurants abound, notably Philip Traen's 'tBourgeoische Cruyce, just off the central Wollenstraat, or Francois Bogard's Den Braamberg in the Pandreize. Bruges is a little place; all the attractions lay within walking distance of our hotel, the elegant L'Orange-rie. The town lies in the Flemish-speaking part of the country and everyone speaks English. It all helps.

Bruges is well worth a long weekend, and many famous Englishmen have stayed here for longer than that. Both Edward IV and Charles II lived here in exile, and they made a wise choice. It is a lovely city in which to relax and wander about, delighting in the fresh views that await the eye around every ancient corner.

Rob Neillands

TRAVEL NOTES

Full information on Bruges can be obtained from the Belgian National Tourist Office, 38 Dover Street, London W1 (01-499 5379). Townsend Thoresen have direct sailings to Zeebrugge, and run weekend breaks to Bruges by car, from £46.25 a head. Full details from Townsend Thoresen Holidays (0732 385437). Other operators with short breaks in Bruges include Wintland (066 382 425), Time Off (01-235 8070), Sealink Belgium Breaks (01-388 6843).



Canals and carillons: The 300ft Belfry in Bruges, where there is one step up for every day of the year, including February 29. The climb to the top is well worth the view

Little surprise for Easter



Holidays abroad over the Easter break are virtually sold out, according to the Lunn Poly travel agency chain.

With summer overseas holiday sales lagging behind last year's level by about 20 per cent, this mini-boom has taken the travel trade by surprise. Lunn Poly's marketing director, Mr Roger Peverett, said people were leaving their holiday bookings until the last minute. "Although we can find occasional cancellations for Easter for the odd one or two customers, there is not a lot available."

But despite the Easter sell-out, tour operators are continuing to come up with special offers for the rest of April and May. Horizon has issued a programme of "Pricebeaters", with prices from £119 for eight nights in Majorca or £182 for a 19-night apartment holiday in Portugal.

Blue Sky Holidays is offering a range of "late extra savers" at selected hotels, with special deals such as free holidays for children or full-board for the price of half-board in some hotels in Majorca or Ibiza. Free holidays for children in most of the Greek resort areas are available as well from Olympic Holidays during April, May and June.

Safety in Spain

British tour operators have welcomed moves by the Spanish government to strengthen the policing of resort areas. Extra police are being drafted to resorts this year and the judicial system is being streamlined so that offenders can be dealt with swiftly. Members of the Tour Operators' Study Group have said they will "speedily evict" troublesome holidaymakers from resorts and, if necessary, repatriate them to the UK before the end of their holiday.

Airfare auction

Special offers on transatlantic flights this summer are beginning to appear, despite the

anticipated increase in normal fares. Jetset is "auctioning" 1,000 tickets from Gatwick to New York on the new daily service to be operated by its parent company, British Caledonian, from May 1. Potential passengers have been invited to put in their bid for a return flight to New York during May by nominating their own price for an economy-class return ticket - normally £329 - and stating their preferred travel dates. Bids have to reach Jetset by April 12 and successful bidders will be notified within about a week.

Holiday dramas



The Royal Shakespeare Company has extended the scope of its package deals which cover performances at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Two independent airlines which have hitherto concentrated on package-holiday charter flights are branching out into scheduled services. Britannia Airways, owned by the Thomson Travel group, starts serving the Manchester-Palma (Majorca) route three times weekly from May 5 and also plans a service between Manchester and Malaga. Its cheapest fare to Palma is £115 return. Air Europe, which is owned by Intasun Leisure, starts a scheduled service between Gatwick and Palma on May 2, with five weekly departures and fares starting at £106 return.

Israeli giveaway

British visitors to the Red Sea resort of Eilat will benefit from an Israeli government decision to make it a duty-free zone. All tourists to the area will be exempt from the normal 15 per cent VAT and will be able to buy goods at a special shopping centre free of all taxes.

A few days afloat

Blakes Holidays, the boat-hire operator, is offering weekend and mid-week short breaks between April 15 and May 23 at prices from only £20 per person on a number of waterways, including the Norfolk Broads, the Thames, English canals and Loch Ness. Blakes Holidays, Wroxham, Norwich NR12 5DH (0603 2911).

Austrian assurance

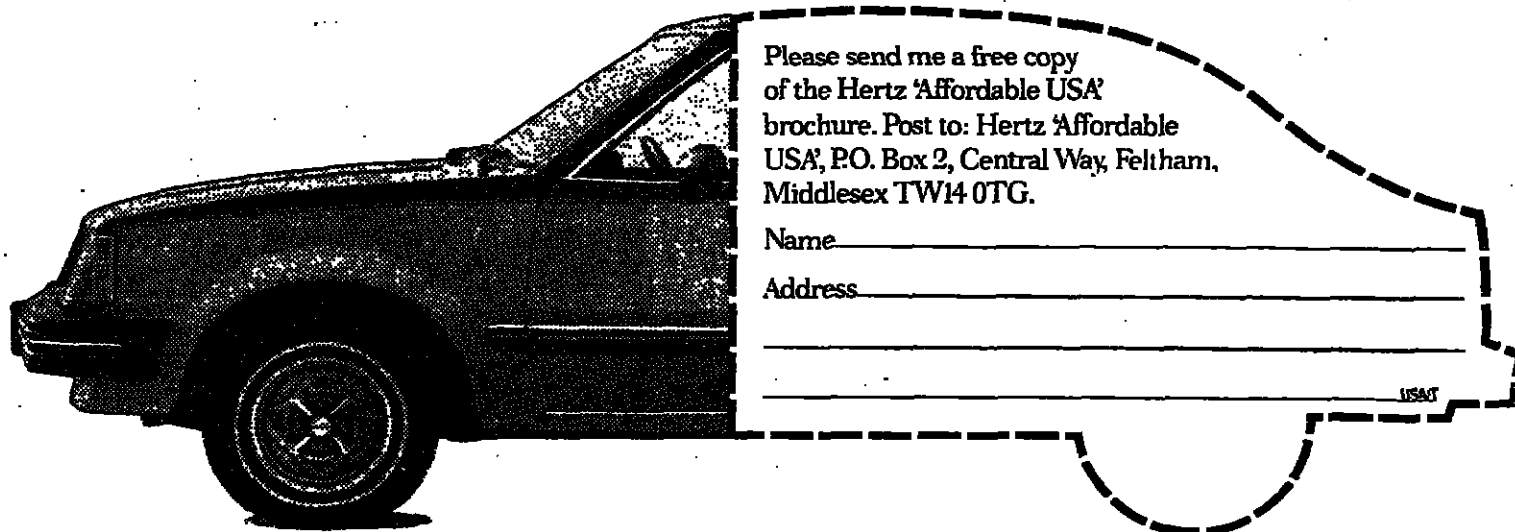
Free holiday insurance is being offered by the Austrian province of Tyrol to every visitor who checks in at any hotel, guest-house, camp-site or licensed private house will automatically be covered for first-aid up to about £38, rescue (up to £194), helicopter rescue (£775) and repatriation by air ambulance (£3,875). The Tyrol Travel Board says the plan should be regarded only as a top-up to normal holiday insurance.

Flights to the sun

Two independent airlines which have hitherto concentrated on package-holiday charter flights are branching out into scheduled services. Britannia Airways, owned by the Thomson Travel group, starts serving the Manchester-Palma (Majorca) route three times weekly from May 5 and also plans a service between Manchester and Malaga. Its cheapest fare to Palma is £115 return. Air Europe, which is owned by Intasun Leisure, starts a scheduled service between Gatwick and Palma on May 2, with five weekly departures and fares starting at £106 return.

Philip Ray

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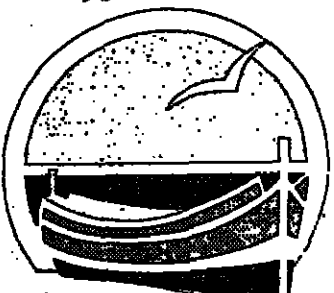
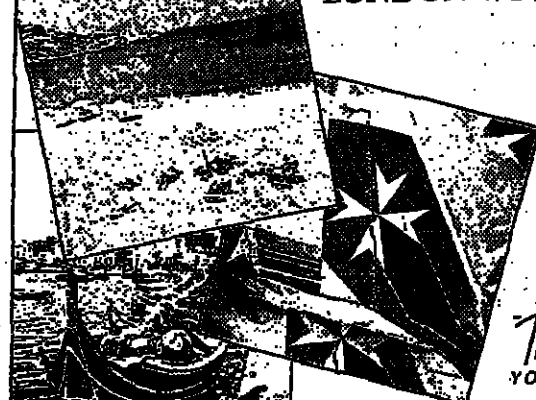
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IN THE GARDEN



● Ashley Stephenson reveals the secrets of the best alpine plants

● Anthony Greenstreet unearths a mound of buried treasure

● Rosemary Verey is entranced by horticultural books

● Roy Lancaster sets out in pursuit of the dedicated hunters

On the rocks

The Ghent Floraries is probably the most magnificent of all the horticultural exhibitions in Europe. Full of plants grown in ideal conditions, it is a spectacle not to be missed. The British exhibit this year, a rock garden sponsored by the Worshipful Society of Gardeners, will be a peaceful oasis in the sea of color.

Rock, or alpine, plants need a great deal of attention. They do not mix well, and require a specially selected site where they can grow without competition for light or roof space which they might encounter in borders or flower beds.

It is almost impossible to grow alpine plants in heavy, badly drained soils. They are usually very hardy and will grow happily in exposed positions, but there are always exceptions.

Cyclamen coum is now in flower and likes to be in good, but not direct, light. It will add colour to a rock garden as well. *Erythronium* *tulimense*, dog's-tooth violet, has yellow flowers; *E. Hendersonii* has dark leaves and purple flowers. *Crocus* *Tomasianus* with its lavender flowers and *C. Suterianus* with orange flowers, as well as chionodoxa, iris, muscari and scilla, all brighten up the garden in spring.

Thyme forms compact, aromatic mats and should be planted so that gentle brushing or slight bruising of the foliage will release the scent. *Thymus citrodorus* E. B. Anderson is a compact plant with light foliage; *T. Scirpium* is the form most usually grown and there are a number of other forms such as *Roseus* and *Albus* which indicate their colour.

One of my favourite families is the houseleeks, the *Sempervivum*. There is a wide range to select from and they form

compact rosettes which cover rocks or path edges beautifully. *S. arachnoides* is one of the cobweb forms; *S. marmoratum* has higher rosettes which may be highly coloured; the *texorum* are the most common. There is always room for one or other of this family in the garden.

Sedum is a large family with much to offer. *S. spathulifolium purpureum* gives attractive



Alpine attractions: RHS plants at Wisley. Clockwise from left: Crocus, sedum, edelweiss, cyclamen and sempervivum

ground cover. It is quite vigorous, with small leaves in lovely shades of green and purple. *S. oreogrum* has swollen stems and *S. sedkianum* forms tufts from which yellow flowers are produced on short stems. Mat-formers should be kept apart, since once they begin to grow together you will not be able to control them.

Rosa alba *auralis* forms mats

close to the ground which are silvery green. *Prunella* *Webbiana* is also prostrate, with distinct purple flowers. *Prilla pedunculata* is also mat-forming with soft green foliage enhanced by lavender flowers. *Erinus alpinus*, with its daisy-like flowers, has a low, creeping habit and will grow in cracks between rocks and steps. *Ajuga* is a rampant grower, covers

ground quickly and reaches little more than 4 in in height. *A. reptans atropurpurea* has attractive purplish foliage.

There are good forms of *Lewisia* available and the hybrids are excellent. Flower spikes which will last for some weeks rise from the centre of the green rosettes of leaves, usually in shades of orange. Of the hybrids, Paula has pale lilac



flowers. Pinkie Strain is in shades of pink, and Susan has rosy sprays.

Leontopodium alpinum, the common edelweiss, has grey foliage and greyish flowers in June. *Ornithoglossum* is sometimes considered a rarity. A new form is Loch Ewe, an evergreen.

The Ghent Floraries will be at the Congress Centre, Citadelpark, 3000 Ghent, Belgium, Apr 20-23, daily 10am-10pm. More information from the Belgian National Tourist Office, 38 Dover Street, London W1 (01-499 5379).

The Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, Wisley, Surrey (0483 224163) has a good rock garden. The Royal Botanic Gardens, in Edinburgh, and Kew, Surrey are also worth a visit.

The Alpine Garden Society is worth joining (write to Michael Upwood, Lye End Link, St John's Woking, Surrey; for plants, W. E. Ingwersen, Birch Farm Nursery, East Grinstead, West Sussex or C. G. Hollett, Greenbank Nursery, Sedburgh, Cumbria).

Ashley Stephenson, *The Times* gardening correspondent, is *Bailiff of the Royal Parks*.

Digging around

Many people would accept that in summer the Botanic Gardens in Oxford is one of the most perfect places in England. John Betjeman well expresses the perfection of its appeal to sight, smell and sound:

"A grassy kingdom sweet
With nigher lilies still in flower
And beds of umbelliferae
Ranged in Linnæan symmetry
All in the sound of
Magdalen tower."

But in winter this garden for me has another and most powerful attraction. The long, narrow, rectangular beds ranged across the lawns in Linnæan symmetry are then bare of plants, and their expanse of pale earth lies exposed to the eager predator - of which, so far as I know, I am the only one.

When the gardens were laid out in 1621 all the dung-heaps of Oxford's colleges were carried here to enrich the soil. With the scores of cartloads of ordure came the fragments of rubbish which make a winter search along the beds so pleasurable. Of course, sometimes I draw a complete blank;



but that is uncommon. Usually the action of spade, worm and rain leaves on the surface bits of artefacts that were in daily use anything up to 400 years ago.

The easiest to see are the stained white bowls of clay pipes: sometimes I find half a dozen. All are of the small, vaguely acorn-shaped, design contemporary with the great spreading of the dung-heaps - some, known as "fairy pipes", are so small that it is difficult to imagine how they could have provided more than a few seconds' smoking. Sometimes a few fibres of dried tobacco are still stuck inside the bowl; and, often enough, the dried clay bears a thumbprint of the man who made it. Turning them in the hand it is curious to think that these objects once brought pleasure to people like

us three and a half centuries ago. Was their pleasure affected, I wonder, by the Government Health Warning - *Counterblast to Tobacco* - written by James I himself in 1604 which described smoking as "A custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless".

Another common group of fragments comes from the mottled brown-grey stoneware jugs and bottles imported from the Rhineland. These can be very rewarding, often being impressed with lovers' hearts or embossed with crests and faces.

One fragment I have embodied in its crest the three shillings crosses of the arms of the city of Amsterdam. The faces on the neck of the bottles are supposed to represent Cardinal Bellarmine, the vigorous 16th-century Catholic theologian. Heavily bearded, they generally frown in indignance at the sight of the clay, their open mouths snarling a curse at the drinker. But one shattered visage, about an inch square, seems to breathe a different spirit: the mouth is closed, calm and level; the face long and majestic - rather like that on the Turin shroud. Unfortunately, I have not yet found the other half of the face

so I cannot be quite sure of this intriguing change of mood.

Those who were comforted by the contents of these jugs, and casually noted on them, would have seen during the Civil War Prince Rupert's sentries looking out from Magdalen tower.

My favourite trophy is a black glass bottle-seal, embossed in elegant lettering "Mag Coll C.R." - Magdalen College Common Room. The Ashmolean Museum tells me that it dates from the middle of the 18th century. The fellows whose candle-lit feasts were darkly reflected in this seal would have heard the news of the Jacobites turning back at Derby.

Other rewarding sites for diggers are: the Rose Garden of the Royal Station Hotel, York, particularly for fragments of Roman pottery; parts of Monschau Park, Ewell, Surrey, where it has been ploughed, good for created fragments of 16th-17th century stoneware; the London forebore of the Thames - under the Tate embankment; St James's Park, London, during its rare major clearings of shrubberies; line range of 17th-20th century pipe bowls; most old National Trust gardens.

Anthony Greenstreet is an enthusiastic "garden-comber" who lives in Surrey.

Story tellers

In my garden grows a small geranium with an almost unpronounceable name - *Geranium kishwarense*. As geraniums go it is of average merit. Its slender root-stock running nimbly just below the soil surface sending up the occasional tuft of leafy shoots. Even the pink flowers are attractive rather than impressive and if it was not for the name it might soon pass quietly into gardening oblivion.

It is in fact something of a rarity, a native of the mountains of Kashmir and Swat, first named from a plant whose seed had been collected early last century in the Kishwar Pass close to the border of what is now West Pakistan. The original dried fragment on which the name is based was destroyed in a fire during the battle for Berlin in 1945. The plant remained unknown to gardeners in Britain at least, until 1978 when a seedling was introduced from the mountains south west of Srinagar, Kashmir's capital. It is now being propagated and distributed via the enthusiasts' network to gardens in many parts of the country.

While I do not expect this plant to become all the rage, its story does illustrate one of the most fascinating aspects of gardening, namely the histories of plants, it is a subject in which all the family, not just the gardeners, can participate. Every plant, no matter how ordinary it may seem, has a history, a story to tell. Consequently, the average garden has a treasury of stories while the enthusiasts' garden is a living library.

Even weeding becomes less a chore and more an adventure once the key to a plant's history is grasped. The key is a plant's botanical (scientific) name, usually in Latin, with which one unlocks the door to a whole new world. It is a world peopled with some of the most impressive characters in history as well as some of the most unassuming. Kings, clerics, politicians, scientists and adventurers, each in their turn have played a role and yet none has left a more lasting impression on our gardens than the plant hunters. To this intrepid band of travellers we owe much of our garden glory today.

The plant hunters were a



mixed bag, many of them amateurs collecting plants to relieve the boredom of a remote and sometimes solitary posting. Others were professionals, tough and dedicated individuals who frequently risked and sometimes lost their lives searching for plants to ornament our gardens. To read of them is to share their world of mountains, forests, rivers and plains. To stroll in a garden is to confirm the connection, for many of the plants have names which commemorate those who discovered or introduced them.

Thus *Hypericum forbesii* reminds us of that great Scot, George Forrest, who first collected this golden flowered shrub in south-west China and, in the same way, the English plant hunter E. H. Wilson ("Chinese" Wilson is commemorated in *Agave wilsonii*, a beautiful Chinese tree with "upside down" flowers. Another Scot, David Douglas is remembered in *Linanthus douglasii*, a cheerful yellow-flowered annual.

The most important period of plant hunting was during the 19th and early 20th century, when most discoveries were new either to science or cultivation and all the most ornamental elements of the world's flora were collected. But a plant hunter's job is no less satisfying today. New and worthwhile plants may now be harder to find but they do surface occasionally and the pleasure is all the sweeter when they grow successfully.

While ornamental plants new to science are relatively scarce, plants new to cultivation are

less so and the chief concern of a modern plant hunter is locating and reintroducing plants lost to cultivation. The geranium already mentioned is an example while another is the recent reintroduction from Kashmir of *Aquilegia fragrans*, with its delightful, sweetly-scented, milk white flowers.

A plant hunter myself, I find the most enjoyable aspect of the job is the frequent reunions in the wild with plants familiar from cultivation. To meet up with old garden friends is to see the other side of the coin, like bumping into someone from your student days in his or her home environment.

It can be a revelation - as it was for me on one memorable day in October 1980. The plant in question was the Chinese dove tree *Davidia*, which I know well as from seeing it in gardens where it is cherished as a single specimen usually planted in grass. On this occasion, however, I walked spellbound through a whole forest of them, giants of 80ft plus growing on Emei Shan, one of China's most sacred mountains. There, incredibly, it is only one of more than 3,000 plants.

For those less able to travel afar, the role of plant hunter can be assumed for an expedition round the increasing number of interesting gardens open to the public. Even a journey round one's own garden can become a world tour simply by recording the countries represented by the plants growing there.

Roy Lancaster has travelled the world hunting rare plants and does regular television broadcasts on gardening.

STOP THE FLOOD
LINK STAKES
Keep Down
Weeds
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Words of wisdom

Looking back in my gardening notebook of 25 years ago gives me an idea of how I then spent my time and my not-so-spare cash. Plants were a top priority, and I was reading Vita Sackville-West and Russell Page. Then came Miles Hadfield's *Gardening in Britain* (Hutchinson, 1960), which opened my eyes to a new world, with the realization that the history of garden design goes back 2,000 years and more. Eager for first-hand access to the wisdom of the early gardeners, I began



collecting old books. The second edition of Gerard's *Herbal* (1633) was an early purchase. The binding was falling apart and several pages of the index were missing. But its condition in no way lessened my excitement at turning its pages. On the fly-leaf was written in a clear hand "Hugh Bond His Book". Who was he? An apothecary seeking herbal knowledge or just a fellow lover of plants? Other herbals, by William Turner (1551), John Parkinson (1640), Clusius (1604) and Culpeper (1652) now share the shelf with Gerard. One day, Daniel Lloyd, bookseller of Kew, offered me a 1568 edition of Thomas Hill's *The Profitable Arts of Gardening*, apologising for its broken binding and missing pages. Then I found Hill's second

book *The Gardeners Labyrinth*, which describes not only plants but alleys, walls and herbals (parous). The illustrations are endearing and show "the invention of garden plots" and "The manner of watering with a Pompe in a Tubbe". These two books are among my most treasured possessions, and since buying them I have searched without success for more perfect copies. They are scarce, probably worn to bits by eager gardeners taking them outside and slipping them into their pockets.

These, and the books of William Lawson, the early 17th century clergyman, and John Parkinson, author of *Paradisus in Sole* (1629), are spellbinding enticements to walk in Tudor and Stuart gardens, among scented plants and fruit trees, where "all our senses swim in pleasure".

After the Restoration, three writers stand out for their thoughts on design and their knowledge of plants. John Rea, John Worlidge and John Evelyn share my shelves with more sophisticated writers of the early 18th century.

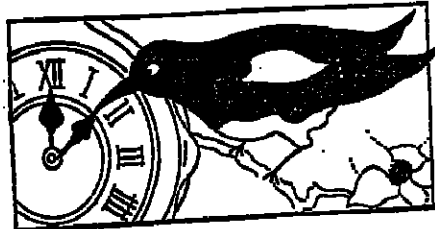
They include John James, translator from the French of *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* (1712), and Stephen Switzer, a discerning gardener

who combined historical with contemporary ideas.

In the 19th century came an explosion of imported plants, glasshouses, monthly magazines, finely illustrated books and verbose head gardeners. Sir Joseph Paxton, head gardener at the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth and designer of the Crystal Palace, became an almost legendary figure.

The works of Gertrude Jekyll, E. A. Bowles, Reginald Farne and Eleanor Sinclair Rodhe are now classics, and although they are reproduced in modern garb their first editions are exciting to hold and possess.

Antiquarian booksellers who specialise in horticulture and gardening include: Daniel Lloyd, 9 Mortlake Terrace, Kew, Surrey (01-940 2512); Bernard Dawkins, 5-8 Lower John Street, Golden Square, London W1 (01-734 2383); Wheldon and Wesley, Lytton Lodge, Coddicote, Hitchin, Hertfordshire (0438 820370).



It wasn't so long ago that grandfather clocks were so out of fashion they were thrown on bonfires; now they have become treasured possessions. With summer time beginning, Lee Rodwell Looks at their life and times

Long and winding... tall and striking

Grandfather clocks got their popular name, I am reliably informed by the experts, from the song, "You remember it, surely? My grandfather's clock was so tall for the shelf, so it stood by itself on the floor..."

I forget how many years it went without slumbering, his life seconds numbering, but I do remember that it stopped, never to go again, having delved into the subject of grandfather clocks - or longcase clocks as horologists call them - I think it an unlikely tale. The point about many of these timepieces is that they have been ticking away for 200 years or so and given the right kind of care and attention could still be ticking away in another 200.

Longcase clockmaking began around the middle of the 17th century. Just as the digital watch was the result of new technology so, in its way, was the longcase clock. The invention of the pendulum and the anchor escapement meant that clocks became more accurate and could go for more than a day. But you needed heavier weights, so instead of hanging these clocks on the wall, people started to make cases to support them and to protect the pendulum. The grandfather clock was born.

The early ones tended to have square brass dials and to run for eight days at least. Originally the cases were made in walnut, sometimes mulberry or an ebony veneer. Their designs followed the furnishing fashions of the times, often highly decorative with attractive marquetry work.

As time passed, the clocks became taller and more elegant. Around 1717 the arched dial was introduced and by the middle of the 18th century mahogany was being used for the cases, and has remained popular ever since. By the second half of the century the grandfather clock was in

its heyday - owning one was a kind of status symbol. Clocks became cheaper with the introduction of the painted dial and as local "clocksmiths" - often men who did all kinds of metalwork - began to turn their hand to the longcase clock. Their products were the poor relations of the kind of clock that was to be seen in the gentleman's house: usually made of oak, they ran for 30 hours instead of eight days or more, and they were not so accurate and measured time in quarters of the hour, rather than minutes.

Grandfather clocks were still a feature of Victorian homes, but by the mid-19th century the manufacture of longcase clocks seems to have declined. Those that were made tended to be massive, elaborately carved, typical of the most over-powered of Victorian taste, with cut glass panels and tubular chimneys. Today, it seems to be mostly Americans who are prepared to give these a home.

Not so long ago people chopped up and burnt grandfather clocks. These days even a 30-hour cottage clock can fetch anything between £150 to £250 at auction and to buy one restored will set you back from £300 upwards. Brian Loomes, an expert on longcase clocks who compiled the second volume of Bailey's, the horologists' bible, runs his own business at Pateley Bridge, North Yorkshire (officially known as Watchmakers and Clockmakers of the World), dealing in clocks. He says: "Of course collectors have been after the rarer longcase clocks and those of historical importance for the past 100 years. But grandfather clocks have been more generally fashionable for the past 20 to 30 years. We've been going for £5 for one - now you can spend £200 to have one cleaned. When grandfather clocks were out of fashion they were literally thrown on the bonfire. Now

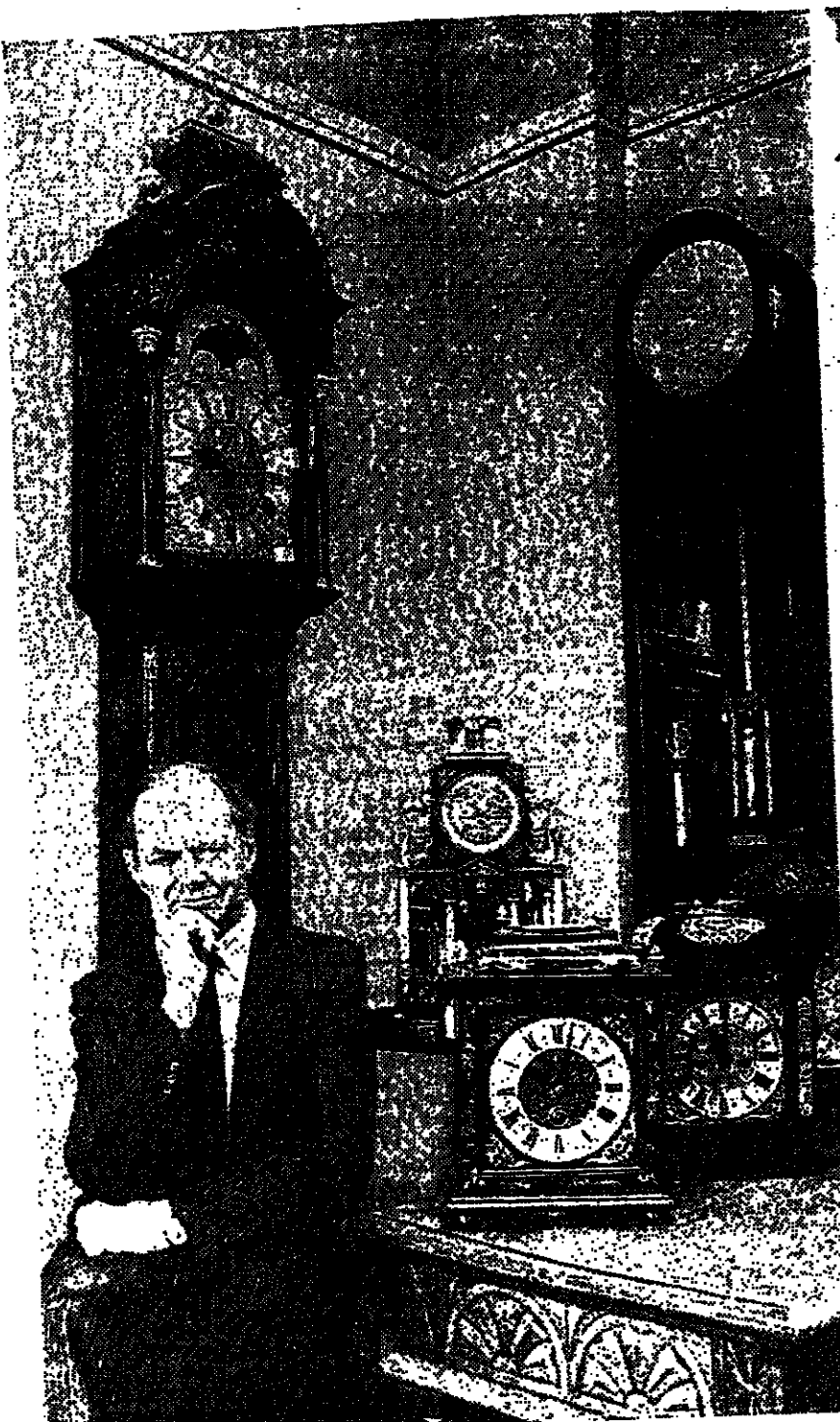
they are treasured possessions. It's hard to generalize on prices - ours go from £60 to £6,000."

London clocks have always been more valuable - longcase clocks made by famous names such as Tompion, Quare, Knibb or Ellicott could well sell, at auction, for anything from £15,000 to £20,000. Aubrey Brocklehurst is one of the country's biggest longcase clock dealers. Originally an engineer, he went into watch and clock repairing after the war and took over the business in 1946, when the proprietor retired. He buys, sells and restores longcase clocks at his premises in the Cromwell Road in London.

He says: "At the moment I have nothing cheaper than a £2,000 oak case brass dial clock. My most expensive clock is a high one of two made by Joseph Knibb after he retired to Hanslope in Buckinghamshire around 1700. I also have a walnut longcase clock by another London clockmaker, John Ellicott, who was clockmaker to George III, with a one-movement movement, made around 1740, for £9,500."

Of course, you need not spend anything like this to buy a grandfather clock but - as with all antiques - you tend to get what you pay for. A reputable dealer rather than picking something up cheaply in a household clearance or secondhand shop is that you are less likely to find yourself with a movement that has been "married" to a case made at a different time, or with a clock that has been badly restored or does not go at all.

On the other hand, if you suddenly find yourself inheriting a grandfather clock, it will probably pay you to investigate the possibilities of restoration if needed. Philip Scatterfield, who runs the Clock Shop in St Albans, Hertfordshire, inherited a



Companions: Aubrey Brocklehurst with some treasures and the prices they fetch at auction

grandfather clock from his wife's family 20 years ago. It arrived in pieces on the doorstep and, as no one else wanted it, he started reading books on how to repair it. He turned into a clock fanatic and went into business when he retired. Although he sells clocks, his main business is restoration. He says: "To overhaul a grandfather clock completely will cost about £150. An old clock restored is often a much better bet than a new one. It will hold its value and probably appreciate."

Laurie Penman also repairs and restores, but in addition to this he runs classes to teach people whatever they want to know about clocks. A week's holiday course at his workshop in Totnes, Devon, costs £85. For that you get a morning's tuition and afterwards free to spend in the workshop, or sightseeing. Certainly if you are thinking of buying a grandfather clock it would be worth doing some homework beforehand. *Clocks* magazine sometimes runs features on longcase

clocks and carries advertisements from dealers, manufacturers and restorers. Most of the auction houses run regular sales of clocks and watches - Phillips, for instance, are holding their next sale on Tuesday. Many people feel that buying a grandfather clock means more than acquiring an antique or a nice piece of furniture. As Aubrey Brocklehurst says: "A house isn't home without a grandfather clock ticking away. There's something companionable about it."

Left: Early 18th century, £4,800
Right: 18th century, £700

DRINK Sydney's sharp tasters

My teeth have just had a hammering - not in a dental surgery but in a light, spacious room at the Sydney Showground where, for three days last month, I sniffed, sipped and spat my way through no less than 586 Australian wines.

For the mathematically minded, and given an eight-hour blind-tasting session that began promptly at 8.30 every morning, this means that I, together with the other eight judges at the Royal Sydney Wine Show, tested some 190 wines per day, spending roughly two and a half minutes on each. Despite its marathon nature, I found the tasting a good deal easier than I had anticipated.

For a start, the 1,586 wines entered for this year's championship were divided into numerous classes according to age, grape variety and style. So instead of trying to evaluate 190 Cabernets in a day - an impossible task - each panel of three judges, ably supported by two associate judges, examined around eight classes that included a varied cross-section of Australia's white, red, sparkling and fortified wines.

Unlike most European tasters the average Australian judge is capable of detecting even the slightest hint of those once-common Australian wine faults: volatile acidity and H₂S. This technical expertise, coupled with a well-organized series of highly professional series of wine shows throughout the country puts Australia top of the wine judging league.

As a European, the only criticism I would make is that occasionally Australian judges can become too technical, and there are wines which, although perfectly acceptable to an international palate, would perhaps be rejected out of hand. Sydney, at least, is aware of the problem or "the growth of the technocrat" as Len Evans, the chief judge, would say: he is currently looking for "style judges" to achieve a better balance.

Despite only one previous visit to Australia, I found most of the classes I judged had a comforting European familiarity about them, such as "Dry White Hock - Varietal Rhine Riesling", "Pinot Noir" and "Sauvignon Blanc". But I confess to being completely stumped by the "Dry White Chablis" and "Dry White Burgundy" classes, both of which included wines made from the Rhine Riesling and Semillon grape in addition to the Chardonnay.

It is a relief to learn that the Sydney wine show is gradually moving away from these generic classes to those that have a varietal or more clearly defined specification.

The "tawny port" class was a bit of a puzzle until I realized that the dessert wine style that the Australians refer to as tawny port is more like a European idea of a nutty, rancio-like and bottled sherry - much prized by sherry aficionados.

Of the Gold Medal wines I judged or tasted (scoring 18.5 points and over compared to a Silver Medal's 17-18 points and a Bronze Medal's 15.5-16.5), those that are available in this country include Remy 1984 Show Reserve Chardonnay (Sainsbury's, £5.95), Victoria Wine £6.45, the Hill-Smith's lively '84 Rhine Riesling (Cullen's, £3.25), and Wynns's mature, minty '78 Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon - it was in fact the superb '82 vintage of this wine that walked off with the Gold, but the '78 is a good alternative (Harrods, £6).

Jane MacQuitty

Horology at home

If you want to make your own grandfather clock it is possible to buy movements, dials and other fittings from a number of specialist firms. Richards of Burton, for example, sell a square brass dial and an etched chapter ring for £120. They can also supply an eight-day English handmade movement with weights, pendulum, key and bell for £404 (excluding VAT).

Ian Campbell is the main importer for the West German manufacturer Kieninger. He can supply a variety of eight-day grandfather movements (prices start from about £184 ex VAT), weights, pendulums, and other accessories. A moon dial made from etched brass, with a dial ring in silver and numerals brass engraved costs from about £158 (ex VAT). Most of his movements offer chimes - some even give you a choice of something between three different tunes as the fancy takes you. Westminster, Whittington or St Michael.

Mike Newcombe is a cabinet maker who will carry out this kind of commission. His prices start at around £780 for a standard longcase in oak, rising up to about £2,500. The more detail there is, the more expensive the work will be - a

clock with a break arch will cost more than one with a standard square face, for example.

Both Ian Campbell and Richards of Burton can supply complete grandfather clocks. Christopher Lowe of Richards says: "We have a catalogue of parts and fittings for longcase clocks and we can design a clock to what people require. Prices go from about £1,500 to about £3,500 for a longcase clock in oak but we are currently making special ones with marquetry cases based on a Knibb clock of about 1680. He devised a system for a Roman numeral striking clock based on a maximum of four strokes. Instead of striking the hours from 1 to 12, a high bell is used for all the Roman is and a low bell for the V's. So at nine o'clock, for instance, you get one high note and two low ones. These clocks will sell for just over £3,000.

The most popular clock in the Kieninger range sold by Ian Campbell is a glass-fronted grandfather clock, with a moon dial, triple chime, and an automatic night shut-off which means you don't have to listen to the chimes between 10pm and 7.15am. It costs £1,936 including VAT.



Firmly encased: John and (left) Tom Hodgson, trained cabinetmakers, of Sinclair Harding

Mike Harding has been making clocks for about 20 years and he likes to think that he is part of a great English tradition.

But, in the clockmaker's world, not only does time fly, times change. "Now," says Mr Harding, "I know of only three firms making mechanical clocks. Everyone else buys factory-made German movements and puts them into imported or English cases. We make handmade longcase clocks as they were made in the 1790s - we make both the cases and the movements ourselves."

The movements that maintain traditions

The company - Sinclair Harding - now supplies such famous names as Asprey and Garrard, not to mention Tiffany in New York. And they are still making the longcase clock that was Mike Harding's first labour of love - only these days it sells for about £8,000 instead of £600.

modern clock) and controlled by a device called an escapement which had hand-made movements which are considered superior to the mass-produced continental or American ones. Regulation: A clock usually designed for a clockmaker to govern the timekeeping of his own clocks by, more precise than those generally made. To get greater accuracy the hands are not always set on the same spindle (arbor) so there may be separate dials.

Escapement: A release mechanism which works with the pendulum to limit the speed at which the hands move. There are

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Break arch: An arched top above the dial which does not reach the full width.

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There is a chapter devoted to fakes and some useful hints on what to look out for. One point to note is that alterations are generally made with profit in mind. Eight-day clocks, for example, are more valuable than 30-hour ones. "Nobody but an idiot," Loomes says, "converts eight-day clocks to 30-hour ones or he would lose money on every one he converted."

Grandfather Clocks and their Cases is published by David and Charles on April 25 at £20.

Mike Newcombe, 89 Maple Road, Penge, London SE20 8UL (01-778 0815).
Sinclair Harding, 16a Lansdown Place Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 525970).
Wine £6.45, the Hill-Smith's lively '84 Rhine Riesling (Cullen's, £3.25), and Wynns's mature, minty '78 Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon - it was in fact the superb '82 vintage of this wine that walked off with the Gold, but the '78 is a good alternative (Harrods, £6).

Jane MacQuitty

Marriage chimes

Marriages - the practice of putting a clock in a case not originally built for it - is one of the things to watch out for when buying an antique grandfather clock.

Brian Loomes has spent almost four years working on his latest book, *Grandfather Clocks and their Cases*, which should help collectors recognize not just when a longcase was made but where. He says: "It may not be at once apparent why we need to be able to distinguish a Whitehaven clock from a Colchester one. Well, a great many clocks are in the wrong cases and while the dial may be a Whitehaven, the

important question arises as to whether the clock's case is right or from a different century and country.

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Jane MacQuitty

Chocolate competition

When it comes to chocolate competitions Marysia Kulakowska takes the cherry cup... chocs, box and wrapper. In fact, so sure of success in the Times Top of the Chocs competition was Miss Kulakowska that she wrote on her entry form: "I rather look forward to being able to gorge myself on chocolates."

Miss Kulakowska, of London SW1, was the only person to score full marks. Her prize is a specially made Times bicentenary basket of nougat and chocolate containing 200 of Thornton's Continental assortment. The chocolates are arranged around a marzipan scroll attesting to her "magnificent obsession".

Runners-up prizes of the marzipan scrolls and two rows of Continental assortment went to Bryan Monaghan, London SW5; Margaret Daniels, London N19; and Gill Harrington, Middlesex. Two of the questions proved contentious and the judges accepted more than one answer. Question five, "Who holds the majority in a standard 1/2 box of Cadbury's Milk Tray, the soft centres or the hard centres?" hinged on the categorization of the hazel-and-caramel. Question 18, "What is a Mont Blanc?" prompted two answers: a white-coated chocolate or the more famous chocolate pudding. The rest of the questions and answers were: 1. What operating character made chocolate for two mistresses? Despinia in Cosi fan tutte. 2. What is the family link between the Milky Way and the Mars bar? Father and son. Frank Mars invented the Milky Way in 1923; his son Forrest

Mars launched the Mars bar in Slough in 1932. 3. What was a "choco"? Australian Second World War slang for chocolate. 4. Why would Sloane Square remind us of a bar of chocolate? Sir Hans Sloane had the idea of using milk instead of water to make chocolate. 5. Who has an elephant trademark? Côte d'Or. 7. When an RAF man says someone is "giving me chocolate", what does he mean? Someone is being sympathetic. 8. What is couventure? Specially smooth-flowing chocolate with a high butter fat content. 9. Approximately how many Smarties are swallowed each year in the UK? Ten thousand million. 10. What are chocolate cards? Cards given away with bars of chocolate. 11. What was "The Chocolate Gale"? Old Royal Naval term for wind from the North West. 12. Which nation gave the world the chocolate truffle? Switzerland. 13. Who claimed he drank chocolate instead of champagne, and why? Casanova, for its alleged aphrodisiac qualities. 14. Why did the British Quaker families secure such an early hold on the chocolate industry? Because of hinged on the categorization of the hazel-and-caramel. Question 18, "What is a Mont Blanc?" prompted two answers: a white-coated chocolate or the more famous chocolate pudding. The rest of the questions and answers were: 1. What operating character made chocolate for two mistresses? Despinia in Cosi fan tutte. 2. What is the family link between the Milky Way and the Mars bar? Father and son. Frank Mars invented the Milky Way in 1923; his son Forrest

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Timely glossary of terminology

Grandfather clock: Lay man's term for a longcase clock. Grandfather clocks are seldom less than 6ft tall. Smaller longcase clocks may be called grandmother or grandfather clocks and were generally only made within the last 100 years. The mechanical parts of these clocks were often factory-made in Germany.

Movement: The works - what makes the clock go. Basically a set of cogs (wheels) is driven by a weight (or springs in a more

modern clock) and controlled by a device called an escapement which had hand-made movements which are considered superior to the mass-produced continental or American ones. Regulation: A clock usually designed for a clockmaker to govern the timekeeping of his own clocks by, more precise than those generally made. To get greater accuracy the hands are not always set on the same spindle (arbor) so there may be separate dials.

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AUCTIONS

POSTER ART: Advertising posters of the last 100 years have become very collectable. A 1902 Koloman Moser poster advertising the Secession exhibition in Vienna is the highlight of the poster sale at Christie's South Ken on Monday. Prices are expected to run from £50 to £15,000 with artists represented such as Mucha, Toulouse-Lautrec, Toorop, Hockney, Klinger, Bonnard, Forain and Deutscher. Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 3679). Viewing Mon from 9am, sale Mon 5pm.

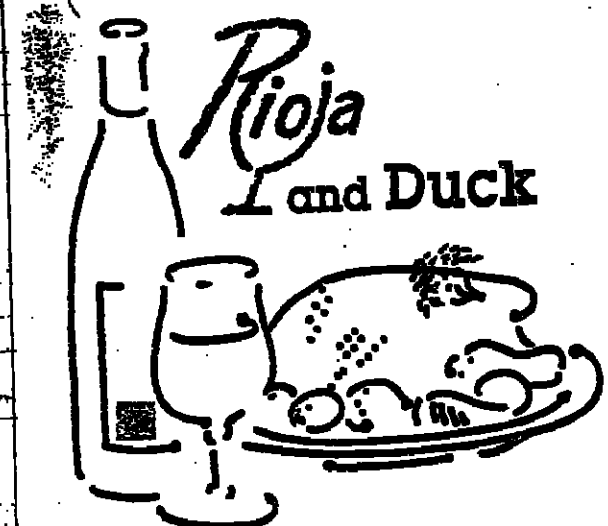
RAILWAY PRINTS: Phillips's sale of fine decorative prints on Mon includes a section for railway buffs. Includes in view of the railway's 150th anniversary celebrations is a Great Western Railway print, estimated £250, and a John Cooke Bourne folio of London and

Birmingham Railway lithographs is estimated at £3,000. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (01-629 6602). Viewing today 9am-noon, Mon 9-10.30am, sale Mon 2pm.

REDISCOVERED MASTERS: The 17th-century Italian artist Guido Reni was the darling of British collectors in the 18th century, and a hitherto unrecorded Reni, "David with the Head of Goliath", comes for sale from Scotland at Sotheby's on Wed. It is a later version of a subject treated by Reni in a painting in the Louvre. The sale of old masters also contains a Rubens sketch and a fine Jacob van Ruisdael landscape which has been in the same British family since the mid-18th century. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-433 8080). Viewing Mon and Tues 9.30am to 4.30pm, sale Wed 11am.

As a paid-up member of the I-know-what-like school of art fanciers I have no hesitation in suggesting that you take a look at the decorative prints to be auctioned by Phillips on April 1. The term "decorative prints" refers usually to 18th and 19th-century engravings, etchings, aquatints and lithographs. As they are often made by professional engravers reproducing paintings rather than "original prints" which have been etched by the hand of the masters, they are chosen mainly for their subject. The joy of them is that for relatively little you can acquire charming images of whatever subject appeals to you. There are ballet prints, caricatures, sporting and military subjects, railway scenes, natural history plates and topography of Britain and round the world. Students of fashion might consider

lot 32, a mezzotint entitled "Modern Head-Dress of Polly of 1772" by William Humphrey showing a lady giving orders to her coachman to heighten her carriage to accommodate a 2ft tall hair-do (estimate £80 to £100). The highest estimates are £3,000 to £5,000 for lot 17, a rare hand-coloured set of engravings after six of Raphael's major frescoes. Of course Raphael paintings would not be within a normal buyer's orbit even if they were to come onto the market, so these prints at least give you the chance of having masterpieces by proxy on your walls. Viewing is on Thursday afternoon, Friday from 9am to 5pm, March 30 from 9am to noon and on the morning of the sale which starts at 2pm on April 1 at Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (01-629 6602). An illustrated catalogue costs £5.50 by post.



The outside of a roast duck has got to be crispy and inside the meat tender and moist. The wine has got to be a red Rioja. Wonderfully complementary, the mature red Riojas with their hint of oak make a roast duck even more special.

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صكرا من الاصل

REVIEW

صوت من الامل

Scaling the heights of violin repertory

Shlomo Mintz's development over the past few years has been extraordinary, taking him from golden boyhood to wisdom with scarcely a pause for breath, and certainly with no loss of technical accomplishment. It is entirely appropriate that he should now be addressing himself to the Himalayas of the violin repertory, in a recording which needs no tertiary justification. It stands on its own considerable merits.

There is a sense in which the most modern performances of Bach are among those branded "authentic", partly because authenticity of this kind is a modern conception. Mintz's view, however, seems equally to belong to the present day in its combination of strong, even rhythm with occasional well-characterized and sometimes eccentric detail.

Take the great D minor Chaconne. Mintz's pulse here is on the slow side and implacable, and he works determinedly through the movement with no interruption of concentration; yet he holds on to the possibility of being odd. Some of the quicker multiple-stopplings, for instance, are almost gratingly brusque, and the opening of the D major section is done with an absence of vibrato that suggests a consort of viols.

There are similar sudden glimpses of the distant past (the 16th century was surely more distant psychologically from

Bach: Sonatas and Partitas Mintz. DG 413 810-2 (three CDs).
Debussy: Piano works Kocsis. Philips 412 118-2 (CD).
Rachmaninov: Piano Concertos nos 3-4 Kocsis, San Francisco SO/Warner. Philips 411 475-2 (CD).

Bach than he is from us) when densely chromatic music opens out into the clear light of a major key; the first movement of the C major Sonata provides an example. And this is just one way in which Mintz seems to have benefited from modern historical awareness without making any ill-considered claims.

What also serves him well, of course, is his technique. There is a grave danger in this music that the "perfect" performance will alleviate what is a very productive tension between the compositional thought and the instrumental means. Mintz certainly has the ability to negotiate all these works without awkwardness, as he brilliantly shows; but he puts the difficulty back in. The chords do not sound strained because they are hard to play but rather because the harmony is voiced to make that effect, and in the same way the fugues become wearying not through stumbling, but through the quantity of musical intelligence being channelled before one's ears.

Compact-disc recording gives one an unusually immediate contact with a solo musician,

both in Mintz's Bach set and in Zoltan Kocsis's new Debussy album. This has been planned with a purpose. Kocsis's typical inquisitiveness would appear to have been stimulated by the three Images of 1894 published only eight years ago, and around them he has grouped a sequence of related sets: the Suite bergamasque, Pour le piano and the Estampes. The result is a fascinating network of masterpieces and failed attempts, dating from the period when Debussy was sorting out his piano style.

But there is more of value here than the programming. Kocsis does not take Debussy's fluidity as an invitation to rubato: even his slow movements are to the metronomic though lingering "Coeur de lune" especially so. Variety comes instead through colouring, and in particular from the use of the sustaining pedal. This is Debussy shifting in and out of focus through carefully weighted veils of resonance. It is also a Debussy cleared of picturesque effect ("La soirée dans Grenade" is resolutely un-Spanish).

In two Rachmaninov concertos, of which his recording arrives simultaneously, the drive, the cleanliness and the high speed draw attention to themselves, but the Debussy pieces sound well as studies in rhythm and sonority.

Paul Griffiths



Music for modern times: Rachmaninov (left), Bach (top) and Debussy, now on compact disc

Faint sounds of later greatness

Verdi: Oberto. Dimitrova, Bergonzi, Pavarotti. Munich Radio. Orchestre de Paris. S 105 843 F (three records, distributor: Harmonia Mundi).
Puccini: Turandot. Marton, Ricciardi, Carreras. Vienna State Opera. Orchestre de Paris. S 13M39160 (three records, also cassette).
Gershwin: Porgy and Bess. Alexander, Estes, Berlin Radio Symphony Orch/Statnik. Philips 412 720-2 1 CD (also black disc and cassette).

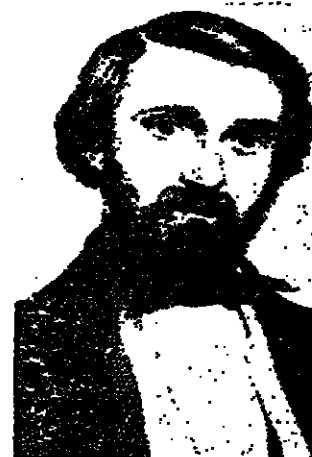
The first is last. This month's issue of Oberto, the work which launched Verdi on his career as an opera composer, completes the cycle on record of his stage works, other than those which were rewritten or presented again in different guises. Oberto, the story of the titular Count who has a daughter (Leonora) loved and left by a rival and caddish Count (Riccardo), has a rickety libretto and there is no pretending that Verdi had the skill to cover up its cracks, as he was to do with many similarly rickety librettos in future. And those are the reasons why it is so rarely seen on stage.

Act I is a static and lengthy affair, with formal enclosed numbers that take Donizetti's tragic operas as their model. But in the second act, much more concisely composed, in which Riccardo runs Oberto through with his sword before deciding to flee the country, the true voice of Verdi begins to be heard. It is there in the opening aria for Cuniza, the princess whom Riccardo hopes to marry but does not, which is delivered with firmly rich tone by Ruzza Baldani. It is even more audible in Riccardo's "Ciel pietoso", the forerunner of many great recitative numbers Verdi was to write.

This is sung with full lyrical plangency by Carlo Bergonzi, who earlier treats some of Riccardo's music very gingerly. Rolando Panerai, another performer of veteran status, shows less caution in the title role: the top of the voice may not have much power but Panerai is still able to project all the emotions of the affronted father - the first of another long Verdian line. The main disappointment is Ghena Dimitrova, whose aggressive and often blustery tone on this opera set makes her strange casting for the sad and sinced-against Leonora who ends up her days in a nunnery.

Lamberto Gardelli, who has done so much for the lesser-known operas of the Verdi cycle, mainly on the Philips label, is highly idiomatic playing from the Munich forces. His conducting is likely to be a major factor in persuading all Verdians to collect this first stage work.

Similarly Lorin Maazel's performance with the Vienna State Opera chorus and orchestra is the plus point of CBS's new Turandot. It was taken



First fumbblings: Verdi, still learning his art in Oberto

from live performances in Vienna when Maazel's rift with that city was complete and he was clearly out to show his burghers just what they were going to miss. He does so in an orchestral performance that is as exotic as it is dark-hued: Maazel was to display again his mastery as a conductor of Puccini in this same opera a couple of months after the recording at La Scala. At times he can be as slow as Karajan on the rival DG set, but it is his control of the dramatic pauses that makes a "live" Turandot, with its irritating and possibly conceited applause, worth considering.

Eva Marton's Turandot is all attack, but it has its monotonous moments and her Italian can sound strange. Carreras deliberately darkens his voice for Calaf and it is not an Italianate interpretation in the way that Corelli's, for example, was, but he certainly injects both character and emotion into the part. So too does Ricciardi as Liu, happily recast after her excursion into the title role. The Timur is poor and an Italian voice among the supporting roles would have helped.

Philips have a curiosity for early April release in a high-lighting of recordings of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess with the two principal singers, Simon Estes and Roberta Alexander, doubling up on roles. Estes could do with a bit more black velvet in his voice before he is the ideal Porgy, but he has a great time as Sportin' Life. Miss Alexander's fresh and direct upper register brings plenty of rewards as Bess. After a crackling start, Leonard Statnik with his East German orchestra allows himself to be pushed a bit too far into the background in this co-production with VEB. But why did Philips not go for a full Porgy, with the opera selling out every performance at the Met and scheduled for Glyndebourne in '86?

John Higgins

Mighty romance or period precision

Old traditions, they say, die hard. The resurgence of period-style playing, of baroque music is evidence enough of that. Younger traditions, though, are at least as resilient, or so it would appear when Decca has the confidence to issue a new recording on two compact discs of Handel's Messiah using the mighty, and mightily romantic, forces of Sir Georg Solti's Chicago team.

Loath though it is to accept that contemporary performance practices have anything to do with the music, this reading does in its own way contain much that is good. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra, although heavily pruned for the occasion, play with characteristic beauty, the strings making their usual lusty sound, so that one is almost tempted to think how very lovely it all is. But only almost, since the singers are so obviously miscast.

Kiri te Kanawa's singing comes closer than that of her colleagues to being acceptably pure, and she is in firm control of her vibrato. Yet even she spoils the performance with inappropriate self-indulgent phrasing. The contralto, Anne Gjevang, sings with a strangely constricted tone, and Keith Lewis's insistent flutter is an irritating mannerism, while Gwynne Howell's rich voice is simply too large, dare one say too noble, for the music.

EMI's new batch of releases includes two recordings of Handel's Water Music that offer diametrically opposed views of

Handel: Messiah. Kanawa, Gjevang, Lewis, Howell, Chicago SO/Solti. Decca 414 396-2 (compact discs).
Handel: Water Music. Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra/Muti. EMI 27 0156 1 (cassette 27 0156 4).

Handel: Water Music. Linde-Consort/Hans-Martin Linde. EMI Reflexe 27 0091 1 (cassette 27 0091 4).

Handel: Music for the Royal Fireworks. Linde-Consort/Cappella Coloniensis/Linde. EMI Reflexe 27 0128 1 (cassette 27 0128 4).

Monteverdi: Vespere della beata Vergine (1610) Taverner Consort, Choir and Players/Parrott. EMI Reflexe 27 0129 3 (cassette 27 0129 5).

Monteverdi: L'Orfeo Chiaroscuro, London Baroque/Rogers and Medlam. EMI Reflexe 27 0131 3 (cassette 27 0131 5).

the piece. Riccardo Muti and the Berlin Philharmonic do everything one might expect. Many of Muti's speeds are ponderous, and though the string sound is as exquisitely luminous as ever, very often the phrasing is non-existent, even if the oboes bring an element of crispness to some of the faster movements. But how much more stimulating is the Linde-Consort's new Reflexe disc; the tightly sprung rhythms and the space that careful phrasing gives add immeasurably to the majesty of the music, as do the biting timbres of period-style instruments.

Hans-Martin Linde's splendid version of the Music for the Royal Fireworks, this

Hans-Martin Linde's splendid version of the Music for the Royal Fireworks, this time with the massed forces of the Cappella Coloniensis, is equally to be welcomed, not least for its inclusion of two rarely heard concertos. One, a concerto a due cori for two wind groups and strings, recycles music from Esther, the chorus "Lift up your heads" from Messiah, a duet from the Birthday Ode for Queen Anne and, just for good measure, a chorus from the Quasi-Motet, while the other, a brief two-movement work whose scoring demands four horns, has a majestic introduction that proves that the Fireworks Music, too, was not an altogether original piece. Again, the playing is delightfully crisp.

Finally, two important Monteverdi issues, also from EMI Reflexe. Andrew Parrott's recording of the Vespers is a revelation indeed. He sets the music in its proper liturgical context, including Vespers chants appropriate to the feast of the Assumption, and judiciously unclutters the publisher's original muddled order of movements.

The singing and playing of the combined Taverner forces is magnificent, clear and stylish without being affected or in any way academic. The same applies to EMI's new L'Orfeo, complete on only two records, where the lightning of textures compared with Jürgen Jürgens's mid-1970s recording helps bring the drama closer.

Stephen Pettitt

Simply soothing

Andrew Lloyd Webber: Requiem. Soloists, Winchester Cathedral Choir, ECO/Maazel. EMI EL 27 0242 1.

Death is terribly simple but also, by definition, quite beyond our experience. Hence the usefulness to musicians of the tritone as a symbol of death: it is an elemental interval, being just half an octave, but it is difficult to comprehend within normal tonality. Andrew Lloyd Webber in his Requiem understands this, and makes use of it, and of other ideas that are almost breathtakingly simple (his own word is "austere"). For instance, in the opening section and later there is much play with a motif in the Phrygian mode based on the three most rudimentary steps: tonic, octave and fifth.

The problem is that three-finger exercises of this kind are not rendered strange by any effect of harmonization, rhythm or scoring. They are, rather, presented in such a manner as to soothe, not alarm. And there is a word for the effect of making simple things comfortable: it is "sentimentality". Another symptom of Lloyd

Webber's sentimentality is his disinclination to write counterpoint: there is just one moment when the voices break out into something like canon, which is quickly permitted to founder. Otherwise we are in a world of model tunes safely harmonized, a world which can all too easily recall the Fauré Requiem, the most innocuous of pop songs or, when Plácido Domingo is involved, those instances of sacred art that tenors of an older generation used to perpetrate.

The other soloists are Sarah Brightman as a very prettily voiced high soprano and Paul Miles-Kingston as a admirably firm tenor. Where these two combine, notably in the "Pie Jesu", the result can be touching, though I would guess the balance is more easily achieved in this recording than it would be in the concert hall. That consideration, however, is irrelevant. Having moved out of the church into the concert hall in the 19th century, the requiem has now migrated on to record, and in this case it really belongs nowhere else.

P.G.

FAMILY LIFE

Easter exploration

Capital gains in a children's A-Z

Our children love London and show little fear about exploring its centre and environs by day or by night. Nevertheless there remain many places which they have not visited, activities they have not pursued, outings which they have not made.

For them - and for other children visiting the city for a day or a holiday - *Kids' London* is an invaluable guide. First published in 1978, the revised edition appears in most leading bookshops and stores next Thursday, under the Piccolo imprint, price £2.50.

It contains basic information, editorial notes and comments about places to visit and things to do, categorized alphabetically according to subject.

Members of our family were titillated by the entry "Ghosts, gibbets, graveyards, and gruesome places", not least I suspect

because we live hard by London's most famous collection of graves in Highgate - a part of London where, legend has it, such ghosts as those of Nell Gwynne, Marlowe, Dick Turpin, Dick Whittington - not to mention his cat - abound.

We fell on mentions of haunted and gruesome places: Tussauds, the London Dungeons, the National Army Museum, Museum of London; some remain to be explored. Kensington Palace will see us soon listening for the sound of poor old Princess Sophia spinning and weaving her solitary life away. And we may well look in at the Cuming Museum in the Walworth Road, which houses the Lovatt Collection of superstitions - many of them local to the area. The kids also want to revisit

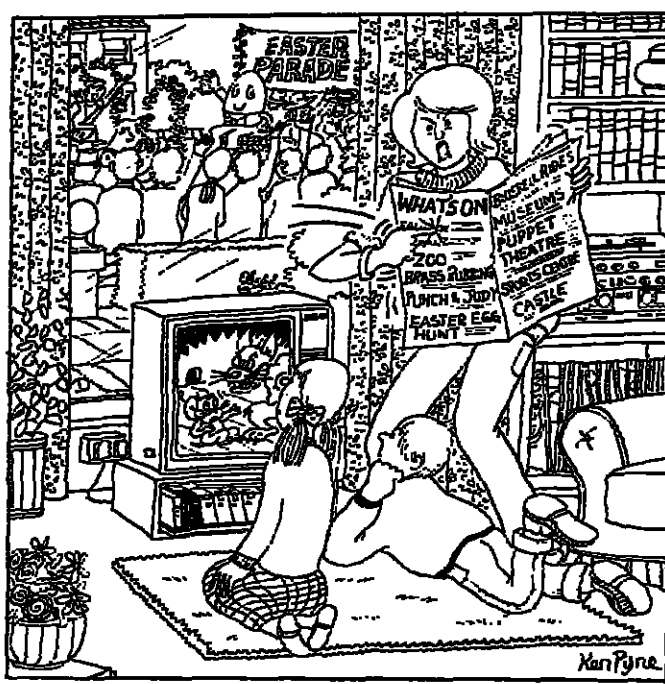
Lincoln's Inn Fields which, according to the book, is a spooky place with "stories of voices crying out in the night, but no sighting of ghosts".

With a handful of children in age ranging from 8 to 15 we spent an hour or so going through *Kids' London* to see how efficiently it supplied information about our various interests, and we were all impressed. The 10-year-old boy whose passion is cricket did not realise how many GLC parks had practice nets and pitches, nor that there was a cricket school in London open for coaching all year. His younger sister was delighted to discover a nearby community centre that runs after-school and Saturday dance classes for her age group. As a further, informal consumer test for the book, I suggested that some friends

visiting London from the north of England send their two children on one of its suggested days out. They chose to follow the Central London itinerary and promised to adhere fairly closely to the route given, which included a visit to Pollock's Toy Museum, the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery.

It took them a while to find Pollock's, which they thought "interesting, but hardly a museum", loved the London Transport Museum and Covent Garden, were impressed by the National Gallery and missed the National Portrait Gallery, "because Jenny was starving and said she would be sick if she had to look at another face. But we'll go another time". What guide could ask for more?

Judy Froshang



Outings

HEAD OF THE RIVER RACE: Traditional processional race for no less than 420 boats, starting at 10.20 on the 1st of April. Spectators free but get there early to get a good view.

THEATRE OF DELIGHTS: A show for younger children by the well-known children's entertainers: this weekend, their celebrated Punch and Judy Show.

Little Angel Marionette Theatre, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, London N1 (01-226 1787). Today at 11am and 3pm, tomorrow at 3pm. Adult £2, child £1.

PAX CAKE DISTRIBUTION: If you happen to be near Ross-on-Wye tomorrow and wish to attend matins at Hertland, Sellack or King's Cople parish churches, you will witness the old-time Sunday tradition in which small cakes stamped with "Peace and Good Neighbourhood" are distributed among the congregation.

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES IN DERBY: A selection of things for children to do, including egg decoration (Wed, 10-11.30am); Easter sweet making (Thurs, 2-3.30pm); and silhouettes (Apr 10, 2-3.30pm).
Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Derby (0332 31111 ext 793). Tickets on application to museum, free but 50p deposit.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 608)

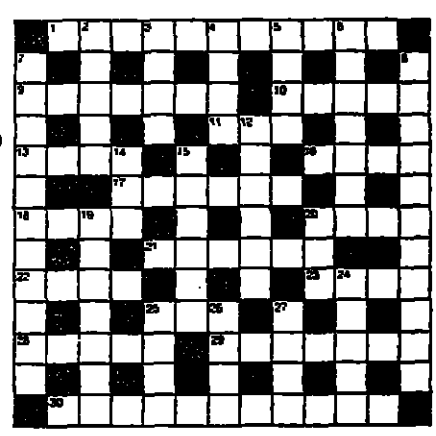
Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions to this crossword, April 4 1985. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9JT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, April 6 1985.

ACROSS

- 1 Thick chilled soup
- 9 Get back (7)
- 10 Drying rack (5)
- 11 Devotee (3)
- 13 Convulsive breath (4)
- 16 Road charge (4)
- 17 Avilla (6)
- 18 Chasm (4)
- 20 Lung dress (4)
- 21 Hang about (6)
- 22 Mature (4)
- 23 Stockpot (4)
- 25 Attempt (3)
- 28 Speak (5)
- 29 Capitulate (7)
- 30 Solent county (4,2,5)

DOWN

- 2 Ear anvil (5)
- 3 Bee nest (4)
- 4 Menial slave (4)
- 5 Persia (4)
- 6 Ligonian (4)
- 7 Fruit eating (11)
- 8 Lattice pattern (11)
- 12 Pile (6)
- 14 Paper block (3)
- 15 Vein bubbles (6)
- 19 Stimulus (7)
- 20 Married woman (3)
- 24 Fidelity (15)
- 25 Scots hillside (4)
- 26 Unable to hear (4)
- 27 Indian dress (4)



SOLUTION TO No 607
ACROSS: 1 Tallow 5 Femora 8 Aye 9 War cry 10 Accost 11 Seen 12 Intrados 14 Scheme 17 Spices 19 Cocktail 22 Semi 24 Schemer 28 Errata 26 Own 27 Jersey 28 Tumbler
DOWN: 2 Awaire 3 Licence 4 Wayside 5 Feast 6 Mocha 7 Rissolo 13 Rip 15 Closure 16 MoT 17 Salient 18 Rostrum 20 Kudos 21 Annoy 23 Motel
The winners of prize contest No 607 are: P. J. Keen, 53 Edinburgh Drive, Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex; and J. B. Anderson, 6 Cedars Park, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

SOLUTION TO No 602 (last Saturday's prize contest)
ACROSS: 1 Lloyd George 9 Haulage 10 Loner 13 Sash 16 Bell 17 Exempt 18 Lasp 20 Flop 21 Payche 22 Some 23 Zzal 25 IMF 28 Owl 29 Abiding 30 Arthur's seal
DOWN: 2 Louis 3 Year 4 Glen 5 Ogle 6 Centee 7 Whistle stop 8 Archipelago 12 Alpaca 14 Hep 15 Jetsum 19 Sampler 20 Fez 24 Erica 25 Ith 26 Fair 27 Hiss

Name: _____
Address: _____

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword, with an additional set of concise clues, will appear next Saturday

CHESS

Masterly moves

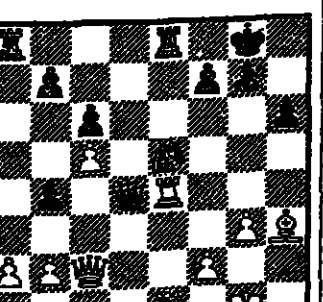
Alexander Alekhine's *My Best Games of Chess*, which was first published in 1927 and contains 100 of the champion's triumphs, is still one of the finest books on chess. Pergamon Press, who make an enterprising and worthy contribution to books on the game, are now to be congratulated for publishing another work by Alekhine, *On the Road to the World Championship, 1923-1927*. Although not so fine as his earlier work, it would well repay study by younger, or indeed any players.

A translation of the original German version, it costs £10.95 hardback, £7.95 paperback.

No less a masterpiece in a quiet way is *Grandmaster Performance* (Pergamon, £11.50 hardback, £6.95 paperback), by L. Polugaevsky. That he is just as fine a player as he is a writer is shown by the following beautiful game, which he won against the former world champion, Smyslov, in a Spartakiad at Moscow in 1979.

He should not surrender the centre so easily. Better was 8... Q-D4.

1 P-Q4 N-K3 2 P-Q4 P-Q3
3 N-K3 N-B3 4 N-K3 N-B3
5 P-Q4 N-K3 6 N-K3 N-B3
7 P-Q4 N-K3 8 N-K3 N-B3



23 B-N2 D-Q4 24 P-K4 P-P4
25 P-K3 P-Q3 26 P-K3 P-Q3
27 P-K3 P-Q3 28 P-K3 P-Q3
29 P-K3 P-Q3 30 P-K3 P-Q3

White: L. Polugaevsky.
Black: V. Smyslov. QF Bogoljubov Defence.

Harry Golombek

BRIDGE

Agonizing over the correct bid

When a leading expert makes a bid which is demonstrably wrong, it is always a matter of interest. Sometimes the full magnitude of the error is obscured by the complexities of some artificial system. In the cases I shall discuss, there is no such protective veil.

♠ A9875 ♠ 762
♥ J10 ♥ 5432
♦ K ♦ 32
♣ A ♣ 10785

West opens one spade. East responds two clubs: what is the correct bid? In my opinion, the answer is clear: two spades. 7-2-2 is a notoriously unproductive shape, the knave of hearts is probably worthless, the spades are ragged, and the concept that partner's response has improved the hand may, because of a lack of entries, turn out to be an illusion. At the table an aggressive three spades proved to be an unhappy choice.

This next hand comes from the British Bridge League trials. Game all, Dealer West.

♠ A975 ♠ 762
♥ J10 ♥ 5432
♦ K ♦ 32
♣ A ♣ 10785

This type of marginal opening bid, with its lack of a convenient rebid, presents a peren-

nial problem. Unprepared to face the complications which follow any opening bid, I pass, and hope my partner will set the ball rolling.

As the auction unfolded in the trials, I am sure that West wished he had adopted a more conservative approach. He bid one heart, and his partner responded two diamonds. To repeat the hearts with that tattered suit is horrible in any circumstances, especially when playing five card majors, so West ventured three diamonds. In the system they were using, West was expected to cue bid any control he possessed, provided the cue bid could be made under the same level. Failure to cue bid would deny possession of the control.

Doubtless with a sense of foreboding West bid four spades. That was sufficient encouragement for East to bid the diamond slam.

The final contract was unap-

petizing. It is easy to pour scorn on West's bidding, but only a good player would reject a rebid of two hearts. Having made the questionable bid of three diamonds, many players would refuse to cue bid the ace of spades, but that type of unilateral decision can lead to a damaging loss of partnership confidence. At least West had a genuine problem, which is more than can be said for the "culprits" on this next hand.

♠ K ♠ 762
♥ A ♠ 10785
♦ A ♠ 10785
♣ A ♠ 10785

The hand is tailor-made for the specialized four no trumps opening, to which the responses are: 5 clubs (no ace); 5 diamonds (ace of diamonds); 5 hearts (ace of hearts); 5 spades (ace of spades); 6 clubs (ace of clubs); 5 no trumps (2 aces).

At one table, West opened four no trumps. East, holding the two major aces, responded five no trumps. Incredibly, West rebid only six clubs, a call

which would normally conclude the auction. But East advanced to seven clubs nevertheless: an undignified sequence in a knock-about game of rubber bridge, even less convincing in the final stage of the BBL trial.

At least this pair achieved the magnificent feat of bidding this simple grand slam, which is more than can be said for two of the four pairs confronted with this problem.

Here is the sequence of another pair of aspiring internationalists:

W E
4 ♠ (1) 4 ♠ (2)
5 ♠ (3) 6 ♠ (4)
(1) Showing a solid suit, requesting East to cue bid his controls.
(2) Correctly, East shows the ace of hearts.
(3) Showing the diamond control, obviously begging for information about the ace of spades.
(4) An irrefragable refusal to cooperate.

West's choice of opening bid was inferior, but East must accept the greater share of the blame.

At the other table, where the slam was missed, West opened six clubs and East passed. Obviously this West's preemptive bids must be treated with respect.

Jeremy Flint

FILMS

Beauty and the beast have a face lift

Jean Cocteau's *La Belle et la Bête* has fallen into the category of classic films which everyone interested in the cinema knows about but few have seen, at least in a presentable form. For more than 20 years those wanting to experience Cocteau's exquisite fantasy have had to put up with a 16mm print, badly worn and barely watchable.

Now, thanks to the enterprise of the Everyman in Hampstead, it is again possible to appreciate *La Belle et la Bête* in its full richness. The Everyman is reviving the film with a new 35mm print struck from the original negative, and if the venture proves successful other semi-lost classics may get the same treatment. Fellini's *La Strada* is a prime candidate.

Cocteau directed only six films, spread over nearly 30 years, of which two were straightforward adaptations of his own plays, in between he wrote novels, plays, poems and ballets and painted pictures. Film making was only part of an extraordinary cultural versatility.

Yet his contribution to the cinema, if it can be isolated from his other output, was substantial. His early experimental *Le Sang d'un Poète* and his last two films, *Orphée* and *Le Testament d'Orphée*, are enduring works, the product of a poetic imagination that took as easily to celluloid as it did to words and paint.

La Belle et la Bête may not be quite on the same level, but it is one of the cinema's outstanding ventures into the fantastic. It was made under trying conditions soon after the Second World War, with old cameras that jammed, on film stock of which no two batches were alike and to the roar of planes from a nearby military camp. And Cocteau suffered so badly from eczema that he had to work with a black cotton mask over his face.

None of this, happily, is evident on the screen. Cocteau turned the ancient story of Beauty and the Beast into an intensely personal, visually captivating film which constantly explores the potential of the medium. In his version, Beauty sacrifices herself for her father after he has picked a



Captivating classic: Jean Marais and Josette Day in *La Belle et la Bête*, revived with a new 35mm print

Openings

MICKI & NAUDE (PG) Micki and Naude are the mistress and wife of Dudley Moore's doting TV personality, and both get pregnant at the same time. Director Blake Edwards wrings far more laughter from the material than expected. With Amy Irving, Ann Reinking, Richard Mulligan. From Fri at the Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252).

THE NEVER ENDING STORY (PG) Lush fantasy film from Wolfgang Petersen, German director of *The Boat*, in which a small boy (Barret Oliver) helps an imaginary warrior (Noah Hathaway) save the kingdom of Fantasia from destruction. Technically impeccable, packed with monsters and strangeness. From Fri at the Warner (01-439 0791), Classic Oxford Street (01-636 0810), Classic Chelsea (01-352 5985), ABC Bayswater (01-628 8620), ABC Edgware Road (01-723 5801).

La Belle et la Bête (PG) opens in London on Friday at the Everyman Hampstead (01-435 1525) and will run until April 17. It is being shown with *Une Part de Campagne* (PG), Jean Renoir's lyrical adaptation of the story by Maupassant, started in 1935 but never finished.

Peter Waymark

ARCHITECTURE - MYTH AND MAGIC: A programme of three films, including *Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*, *Vidor's The Fountainhead*, and *12 Views of Kents Hill*, about Maxwell Fry's building. From Wed until April 15, ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-830 3547).

Where to see the Oscar winners

AMADEUS (PG)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue
(01-335 8867)
ABC Fulham Road (01-370 2636)
Peter Shaffer's celebrated play about the rivalry between Mozart and Salieri re-worked into a lavish screen spectacular. It won eight Oscars, including Best Actor, Best Picture and Best Director.

A PASSAGE TO INDIA (PG)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue
(01-335 8867)
ABC Fulham Road (01-370 2636)
Handsomely photographed and carefully balanced version of E. M. Forster's novel about the tenuous clash of the British and Indian cultures, with a quietly commanding performance from Peggy Ashcroft who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress.

THE KILLING FIELDS (15)
Warner West End (01-439 0791)
Britain's lavish entry into the blockbuster war-movie arena, produced by David Putnam, directed by television veteran Roland Joffé. Sam Waterston stars as the American journalist covering the Cambodian war helped by a local man (Haing Ngor, who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor), fairly impressive in sports.

PLACES IN THE HEART (PG)
Classic Hampstead (01-439 0791)
The latest film of writer-director Robert Benton takes him back profitably to his hometown origins in Texas. A carefully crafted rural drama set in the 1930s, with Sally Field, winner of the Best Actress Oscar this week.

Selected

FAVOURITES OF THE MOON (15)
Chelsea Cinema (351 3742)
Camden Place (485 2443)
Russian director Otar Iosseliani's sojourn in Paris produced the joyously gay comedy of art treasures, thieves and anti-semites, played to the hilt by a cast of non-professional actors.

WETBERRY
Curzon West End, Shaftesbury Avenue (01-499 3737)

David Hare's absorbing film (which shared the main prize at the Berlin Film Festival) dissects Britain's social and emotional climate with stark sensitivity. Crisp dialogue; fine performances from Vanessa Redgrave and her daughter, Joely Richardson who plays the same character 30 years hence. With Ian Holm and Judi Dench.

COUNTRY (PG)
Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2771).

Used to be a film (who also co-produced) and Sam Shepard struggling to keep family and farm together in the American Midwest. An impressive addition to the current cycle of rural roots movies, directed with care.

continue the Mahler festival with the *Adagio* from Symphony No. 10, Debussy's *Nocturnes*, three movements from Berg's *Lulu* Symphony and the finale of Beethoven's *Coriolanus* Overture.

MARC PONTHUS
Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Thurs, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
Boulez's Piano Sonata No. 3, not to mention Beethoven's *Sonata Op. 111*, Brahms's *Rhapsodies Op. 79*, Chopin's *Poésies-Fantaisies* and Ravel's *Gaspard de la Nuit*. An ambitious programme.

P. D. Q. BACH
Thurs, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
The "Baroque Baroque" series begins at the ridiculous rather than the sublime end of the spectrum with a concert of P. D. Q. Bach. Titles like "Howdy" Symphony and *Fuga Meshuga* give an idea of what is to be expected.

MORE MAHLER
Wed, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Claudio Abbado and the LSO

Max Harrison

RSC pioneer makes a rogue's return

The Royal Shakespeare's 25th anniversary season at Stratford-on-Avon opens next week with a new production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Peter Jeffrey playing the old rogue Falstaff for the first time.

By coincidence Jeffrey was a member of the company which launched the RSC in 1960 as it gained its royal charter and emerged in bright new apparel from the old Shakespeare Memorial Company. "I just happen to be the token jubilee actor who was in the company when it started with Peter Hall," he says modestly.

"They were very pioneering and exciting times," Jeffrey recalls. "Peter Hall and John Barton did a tremendous amount of work in all respects, including developing the art of verse speaking. And it was an ensemble company. Quite a number of us took three-year contracts, particularly useful for a young actor with children, and stayed." With actors such as Ian Holm, Ian Richardson, Tony Church and Celia Swift there grew an air of continuity.

Jeffrey remembers too that those were still the days of three different billings for the actors - star, middle and bottom. That was whittled down to two, then to alphabetical billing as now.

In the three seasons he played a variety of roles including Lucanio in *The Taming of the Shrew* and Agamemnon in *Trifles and Cressida*. The latter was set largely in an octagonal sand pit, and by the end of the performance it was fairly uncomfortable. The sand got everywhere.

In *Trifles and Cressida* this anniversary season, Jeffrey graduates to the part of Ulysses, hoping it will not be set in the sand again.

He might have gone to the National Theatre this year but

opted for Stratford when offered Falstaff. "I had not played him before, but it is not the sort of part you turn down. I regard myself as a straight actor and had never thought it was a part I should play. You tend to think of comic actors playing the role, and it is a quite daunting challenge."

"But the marvelous thing about Shakespeare is that he lets you see a character in very different moods, and that is terribly important to me. I certainly do not think of Falstaff as a buffoon."

By another coincidence, the play is being set in 1959, when the RSC was emerging - a time of increasing confidence and prosperity, the second Elizabethan era. It is a sobering thought that the company regards the 1959 dress as "period" not "modern" costume. Equally intriguing is the prospect of Falstaff wearing a loud check "bookie's" suit and vivid mustard waistcoat.

The Merry Wives of Windsor directed by Bill Alexander leads off the season, to be followed by three more new productions: *Trifles and Cressida*, directed by Howard Davies, with Juliet Stevenson as Cressida; *As You Like It*, directed by Adrian Noble, with Juliet Stevenson as Rosalind and Alan Rickman as Jaques and *Othello*, directed by Terry Hands.

The year ends with the revival, and first UK performance outside London, of the RSC's award-winning *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, directed by Trevor Nunn and John Caird.

Christopher Warman

The Merry Wives of Windsor, RSC (0789 285623). Previews today at 1.30pm and 7.30pm, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm. Opens Wed 7pm. Thereafter in repertory.

Openings

JUMPERS: Paul Eddington, Felicity Kendal with Simon Cadell and Andrew Sachs in the West End debut of Tom Stoppard's award winning 1972 National Theatre success, directed, as was the original production by Peter Wood. Aldwych, London WC2 (01-836 6404). Previews today at 4 and 8pm. Opens Mon at 7pm. Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

MR JOYCE IS LEAVING PARIS: Tom Gallacher's two-part study of James Joyce is revived at the theatre which gave it its premiere 13 years ago. In *Triste* we see Joyce heavily in debt when he is 26; in *Paris* he is 57, in failing health and hearing voices from his past. Gate Theatre Club, Prince Albert, 11 Pembroke Road, London W11 (01-225 0708). Opens Mon at 7.30pm, for a season, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm.

PAMELA: Shared Experience Company bring to London a production which they have toured nationally. Giles Hargrave directs an adaptation, by himself and Fidelity Morgan, of Samuel Richardson's 1740 novel subtitled *The History of Pamela, or, Pamela in Rags*. Cheltenham, Ian Reddington, Stan Thomas, John Baxter, Robin Hooper. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 9629). Opens Tues at 7.30pm, until Apr 27, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm. No perf Fri.

SPELL NUMBER SEVEN: British premiere of a play by Nozaka Shange, who wrote *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuff*. The Women's Playhouse Trust production is directed by Sue Parrish. Joseph Charles, Erik Ray Evans, Brenda Glassman, Okon Jones, Dulcie Lieder, Albie Parsons, Amanda Symonds, Mel Taylor and Claudette Williams. Dramatic verse, music and dance are used to evoke what it is like to be black and female in the US today. Donmar Warehouse Theatre, Earlham Street, London WC2 (01-836 3028/379 6555). Previews today and Mon at 7.30pm. Opens Tues at 7pm. Until May 4, Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat (from Apr 6) at 4pm. No perf Fri or Apr 8.

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT YOU? Royal Gala, in the presence of the Duchess of Kent, in aid of Unicef. Ned Sherrin and David Frost co-host a song and dance parade of stars, directed by Tudor Davies and David Toguri. Anthony Hopkins, Joan Plowright, Gerard Kennedy, Emyl Yaworsky, Nanette Newman, Boris Yel, Froma Friedman, Barbara Windsor, Alec McCowen, Charles Drake, Anthony Andrews, Stan Phillips, Billie Whitelaw, Wendy Hiller, Sylvia Syms, Nigel Hawthorne, are among those due to take part.

Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (01-580 5862). Sun only at 7pm.



Period pieces: Peter Jeffrey as a 1950s-style Falstaff in 1985...



...and as Lucanio in *The Taming of the Shrew* in 1960

Selected

A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE
Oliver (01-928 2252). Thurs at 7.15pm. In repertory. Uproarious and (thanks to John Mortimer's translation) surprisingly witty version of the Feydeau farce better known as *Hotel Paradiso*, with Graeme Garden as a spry bourgeois adulterer, Deborah Norton as a marital dragon, Benjamin Whitrow as a wet-weather stammerer and Michael Bryant's snapping hotelier.

ON YOUR TOES
Palace (01-930 6834). Mon-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Thurs and Sat at 2.30pm.
Doreen Wells leads in this appealing revival of the 1936 Rodgers and Hart musical. Staged by co-writer and original director, George Abbot, aged 96.

THE WAY OF THE WORLD
Haymarket (01-830 9832). Until Apr 13, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.
Maggie Smith at her scintillating best heads a starchy cast (Joan Plowright is especially delightful) in Congreve's masterpiece.

WEST SIDE STORY
Her Majesty's (01-930 6606). Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm, Sat at 4.45pm.
Burmester's classic 1958 musical, scrupulously and energetically revived with Jerome Robbins's original choreography.

Out of Town

BELFAST: Lyric Players'
Ridgeway Street (0232 680081). Catholics by Brian Moore. Preview Tues at 8pm, opens Wed at 8pm. Until Apr 27, Mon-Sat 8pm. European premiere of the stage adaptation (by the author) of the novel of recent fame and considerable local interest.

CAMBRIDGE: Arts Theatre, St Edwards Passage (0223 352000). Wonderful Town by Joseph Fields. Jerome Chodorov, Leonard Bernstein, Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Opens Mon at 8pm, until Apr 6, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinees Sat at 2.30pm. The Guildhall Company offer this musical, based on the play *My Sister Eileen*, and the stories of Ruth McKenney. The town is New York specifically Greenwich Village, as two sisters from Ohio try to make their names. Directed by Martin Connor.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: The Other Place (0789 295623). Philistines by Maxim Gorky. Previews today and Mon-Wed at 7.30pm. Press night Thurs at 7pm. In repertory. Dusty Hughes's adaptation of Gorky's play, from a translation by Helen Rappaport, is directed by John Caird. David Burke, Anna Calder-Marshall, Mark Dignam, Margery Mann, Fiona Shaw.

Tony Patrick

DANCE

BALLET DE MONTREAL
Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916). Tues-Fri at 7.30pm, then Apr 6 and 13 at 2.30 and 7.30pm and Apr 9-12 at 7.30pm.
This French-Canadian company making its London debut is an unknown quantity here but has worked and toured for 10 years now in Quebec and internationally. The first week's programme has four ballets, all by founder Eddy Tossaint to a range of music from Bach and Albinoni to Bruch and Tchaikovsky.

SCOTTISH BALLET
Glasgow Theatre Royal (041-331 1234). Today at 2.15 and 7.15pm, Tues-Thurs at 7.15pm.
An enterprising programme of new works by British choreographers includes Michael Clark's first creation for a major company and one by Christopher Bruce, as well as the latest offering of company member Peter Royston.

ROYAL BALLET
Covent Garden (01-240 1066). Today, Mon and Tues at 7.30pm. These are the last Covent Garden performances by the resident Royal Ballet company until June. MacMillan's *Manon* is given tonight and Tues, with Alessandra Fern and Jennifer Penney respectively in the title part. On Mon a new cast appears in Michael Corder's *Number Three*.

BALLET RAMBERT
Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916). Tonight at 7.30pm.
Christopher Bruce's popular *Sergeants* is a dream ends the London season in a bill together with Richard Aston's *Wildlife* and Robert North's *Death and the Maiden*.

ON TOUR
Northern Ballet Theatre give their small-scale *Sleeping Beauty* at the today at 2.30 and 7.30pm. London Contemporary Dance Theatre completes its tour at the 7486 tonight at 7.30pm with a programme including Siobhan Davies's *Bridge* and a new dance version of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* at Lewisham Theatre, Rushey Green (01-690 3431) Sun at 3pm.

John Percival

CONCERTS

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-228 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800).
A typical programme by the Vienna Philharmonic, with Brahms's *Symphony No. 1*, Richard Strauss's *Don Juan* and Stravinsky's *L'Oiseau de Feu*.

GABRIELI QUARTET
Today, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141).
The Gabrieli Quartet offer a solid programme with Haydn's *Quartet Op. 76 No. 2*, Mendelssohn's *Quartet Op. 44 No. 2* and Janáček's *Quartet No. 1* - the one rather confusingly nicknamed "Kreutzer Sonata".

NEW HUSA, DOWNING
Today, 7.30pm, Royal Northern College of Music, 124 Oxford Road, Manchester (061 273 4504).
The RNCM Wind Orchestra gives the UK premieres of Husa's

Trumpet Concerto (soloist, John Wallace) and Downing's *Symphony*. These come with Wagner's *Traversinfonie* and Prokofiev's *March Op. 80*.

MAHLER CONTINUES
Tomorrow, 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-838 8895).
The Barbican's Mahler festival rolls on with Simon Rattle conducting the London Sinfonietta and various soloists in the *Lieder eines Fahrenden Gesellen*, sandwiching these between Goehr's *Little Symphony* and Shostakovich's somewhat larger *Symphony No. 14*.

STANFORD QUARTET
Mon, 7.30pm, Wigmore Hall
On its first European tour, the Stanford Quartet of Stanford University, California, play Beethoven's *Quartet Op. 18 No. 6*, Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" *Quartet D. 810* and the *Quartet No. 2* of Peter Menin, a

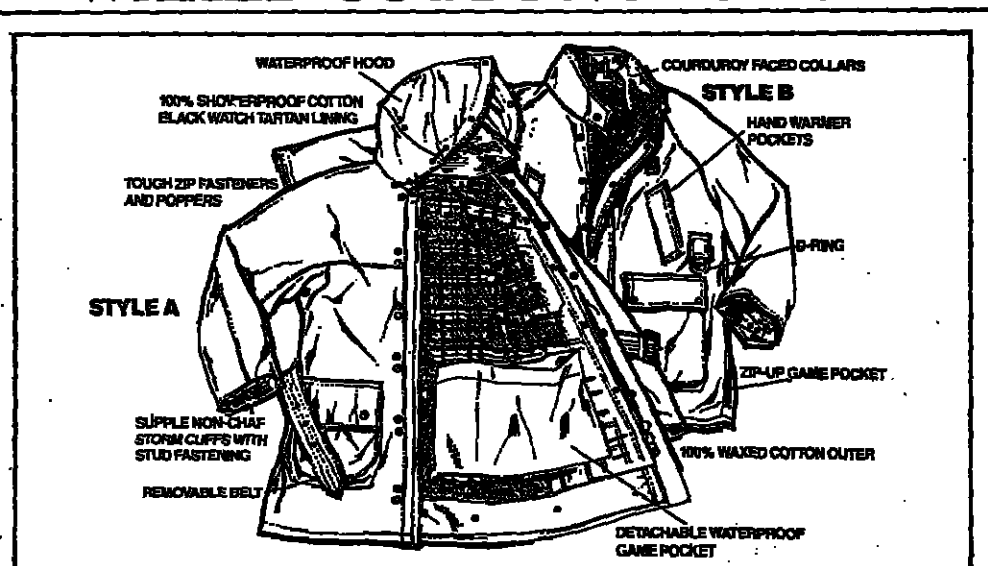
quite well known American composer.

GRAUBIN, BRAVO
Tues, 1.05pm, Bishopsgate Hall, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2 (01-247 6844).
Eva Graubin (violin) and Roberto Bravo (piano) fill the lunch hour with Schubert's *Duo D. 574*, Brahms's *C minor Scherzo* and Prokofiev's charming *Five Melodies*.

IDA GAMULIN
Tues, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-238 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800).
Ida Gamulin, who made an excellent impression with her debut piano recital last year, plays Bach's *Italian Concerto* and Chromatic *Fantasia* and Fugue, and then Schubert's last Sonata, in B flat D. 960.

MORE MAHLER
Wed, 7.45pm, Barbican Centre
Claudio Abbado and the LSO

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GALLERIES

One hundred years of civic pride

"By the gains of Industry we promote Art." So reads an 1885 inscription at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 100 years old this year. The museum is currently celebrating its Centenary mainly by the device of turning the clocks back and recalling the heady days of industrialist beneficence, when it first came into being.

Both industry and civic pride were booming in Birmingham in 1885: Joseph Chamberlain, mayor from 1873-3, had encouraged the spirit of municipal enterprise. Before the museum was founded, gifts had ranged from an entire "Museum of Industrial and Decorative Art" to a painting called "Dead Game" by a local artist.

One of the major events this year is the recreation, in spirit at least, of "The Round Room", as it was in 1885. It is a fine domed display space broken by sweeping arches into other galleries. Fifty paintings in the taste of the time, have been arranged in three and four registers. They include early 19th-century landscapes by Creswick and Cox, historical paintings and figure subjects by Müller and Moore and a stream of portraits of Birmingham worthies. Another small show, also opening on Thursday, is "The Holy Grail Tapestries", designed by Burne-Jones for Morris and Company. Six eight-

foot high panels tell the Arthurian legend.

Already under way is part one of "Beauty from the Colour Box", 50 watercolours by English artists born before 1793, including Constable, Sandby and Towne. Part two begins on June 15 with works by Copley, Callow and Palmer. The exhibition programme continues until the end of the year, with "Patrick Proctor Prints" (from June 8) "Costume 1885-1985", "John and Christina Feeney, Benefactors" (both from July 3), and "Unfamiliar Burne-Jones" (from October 9).

Now nearing 80, Dr Henry Roland used to be a partner in the Cork Street gallery, Roland, Browse and Delbanco (now Browse and Darby). Through-

out his career, he either collected or coveted the works of art that passed through his hands. Opening on Thursday at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh is *One Man's Choice*, his personal selection of 90 works from both categories.

There are big names (Matisse, Picasso and Moore) as well as lesser-known ones (Roderick O'Connor, Ludwig Meidner). Dr Roland admires works which "stem from a positive, even hedonistic approach to life. They are usually figurative as a total lack of imagery, in my view denotes a nihilism of thought".

He has written short texts to accompany each work. Of Matisse's "Bather brushing her hair" he says, "while I soak in my bath, this little beauty watches me from the window sill". Edinburgh cannot provide the bath tub, but for the duration of the show it can provide the painting.

Finally, the retrospective at the Royal Academy of Marc Chagall who died on Thursday, will remain open an extra day, on Monday, in order to raise funds for Ethiopia. A minimum of £2 will be charged.

● *The Erotic Arts* (Secker and Warburg, £9.95), mentioned in this column last week, is written by Peter Webb.

Sarah Jane Checkland

"Centenary" at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 (021-235 2854), all year. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm.

"One Man's Choice" is at the Museum of Modern Art, Belford Road, Edinburgh (01-556 9521) from Thurs, until May 19, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm.

"Chagall" is at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 9052) until Mon, daily 10am-6pm.

"Alan Bowyer" is at the Roger Franks Gallery, 539 King's Road, London SW10 (01-352 3187) from Wed, until April 24, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm.

environmental portraits and was to be published in 45 volumes.

Significantly after volume 1 in 1929 Sander fell foul of the Nazis and the project was banned.

JOSEPH KOUDELKA
John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton (0703 559122).